

tribute

THE TIMES

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WEDNESDAY MAY 30 1984

20p

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Squaring the circle
Tom Stoppard on the
battle to save
his *Solidarity* film
from the soap
powder sellers

Solidarity

Leg...
James Fenton reviews
A Leg to Stand On
by Oliver Sachs

... before...
Michael Binyon looks
at the run-up to
the European
elections in
West Germany

... wicket
Why big Joel Garner
could cut England's
cricketers
down to size
at Old Trafford

Dutch blow to cheap air fares

The Netherlands refused permission for cheap air fares between London and Amsterdam and threatened Britain's whole policy of lower rates to Western Europe. Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, is planning urgent talks with the Dutch. Page 3

Open border

Customs formalities are to be abolished for people travelling between France and West Germany, as a move towards a more integrated Europe. Page 5

Egypt's poll

Final results of the Egyptian elections gave the ruling National Democratic Party 391 seats in the 458-seat Parliament and the opposition New Wafd 58. Earlier report, page 4

Marriage law

A person should be allowed by law to marry an in-law or step-parent, according to a Church of England report. Page 3

They'll be sending
the police
in next...

MISSILES
FOR
MIDDLE
EAST

NHS savings

Health service hospitals in the London area are planning to introduce holiday breaks in August, deferring non-urgent operations, to try to stay within budget. Page 3

Botha trip

Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, arrived in Lisbon, the first stop on the most extensive foreign tour by a South African leader in 36 years. Page 5

Tyre jobs saved

Sumitomo, the Japanese rubber group, has agreed to keep open the Ford Dunlop tyre plant in Birmingham, saving several hundred jobs as part of its £120m deal to buy Dunlop's European tyre business. Page 19

England's best

England's rugby union side achieved the highest win so far on their tour by beating a South African Rugby Association team 30-8. Page 23

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Leading articles: Reagan's Irish visit: A visitor from Prague. Features, pages 10-12

High stakes in the Gulf, another P2: derailing Huskisson. Spectrum: drug barons under pressure. Wednesday Page: a school book primer

Birmingham Airport: Two-page Special Report on the new terminal to be opened by the Queen today - pages 16 and 17

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Mr Reginald Bosanquet, Dr J. M. Hylop, Earl Howe

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Oil and coal share blame for record trade deficit

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Our Banking Correspondent

Britain recorded its biggest ever deficit on trade with the rest of the world in April, largely because of the Gulf war and the miners' strike. Visible trade was in the red to the tune of £838m compared with £227m in March, according to the latest official figures from the Department of Trade and Industry. After an estimated £250m surplus on invisible earnings such as banking and insurance, the current account deficit also reached a record £588m.

Government officials blamed much of the deterioration in the balance of payments on the war and the strike which have affected the oil trade.

Oil companies have been rapidly building up stocks which officials attribute to increasing tension in the Middle East, and the pit dispute has increased imports of fuel oil because the electricity industry has stepped up use of oil-fired power stations to preserve coal stocks.

This led to a £406m drop in the surplus earned on oil during the month, of which about £100m was due to the strike, and accounted for about two-thirds of the increase on the visible trade deficit.

The figures were greeted with disbelief in the City, which expected a small surplus on current account. The trade figures are known to be notoriously erratic and are often substantially revised and, in the foreign exchange markets, the pound scarcely reacted. In nervous but quiet trading, it closed up 10 points against the dollar at \$1.3860 and 0.2

higher against a basket of currencies at 79.6.

However, there is concern about the impact on the economy if the strike is much prolonged and, excluding oil, the underlying trend in trade appears to have worsened.

The volume of exports other than oil, after moving strongly upwards during the second half of last year, may have begun to level out in recent months but underlying import volume is continuing to rise. The Department of Trade and Industry said.

Even including oil, imports are continuing to rise much faster than exports. Figures for the latest three months, which give a more reliable picture of the trend than monthly figures, show that total export volume rose 3 per cent over the previous three months and was 7.5 per cent higher than a year ago.

By contrast, imports in the three months to April were 5.5 per cent higher and 12 per cent above the same period a year ago.

For April alone, imports hit a new record of £6.21 billion, up from £5.92 billion in March. Exports were down from £5.69 billion to £5.37 billion although, excluding oil and erratic items such as ships, aircraft and gems, there was a 1.5 per cent rise due to higher chemical and semi-manufactured exports.

The current account surplus in the first four months of this year now totals £103m compared with a £2 billion surplus for the whole of last year and Treasury forecast of a surplus this year.



Riot police escorting a constable hit by missiles at Orgreave yesterday.

War widows will join D-Day visit

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister has overruled the Ministry of Defence and ordered that a group of war widows should be allowed to attend the D-Day fortieth anniversary celebrations in Normandy next month at public expense.

Defence ministers had resisted public pressure for the Government to extend to war widows arrangements it is already making for about 370 veterans to visit France for the events.

Yesterday, however, Mrs Margaret Thatcher in a letter to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, that the anniversary was unique and said arrangements were being made at once for a visit by about 50 widows.

Mr Kinnock had told Mrs Thatcher there was "wide-spread dismay" over the failure to arrange such a visit officially and, in an obvious and successful attempt to embarrass the Government, offered to give some of the places allocated to the Labour Party.

Mrs Thatcher is understood to have been advised by senior colleagues that the ministry's stance was damaging, particularly during the European election campaign.

The haste with which the decision was taken was apparent last night. The ministry said applications would be taken on a first-come-first-served basis and gave telephone numbers, displayed on television news last night, which widows should ring.

Mrs Helen Rosbottom, of the War Widows' Association of Great Britain, last night expressed gratitude but said that the decision had come at a terribly short notice.

The successful applicants will be flown to Normandy by the RAF or by charter. The Government will pay for their travel to and from London and, if required, accommodation in London on the June 5 and June 6 nights. In France coaches will take them to their husbands' graves.

Mr Kinnock said last night: "I am very pleased".

The BBC's coverage of D-Day ceremonies will go ahead, despite a dispute between the broadcaster, David Dimbleby, and the National Union of Journalists.

Information service, back page

Iran will resist US forces in Gulf

From Robert Fisk, Bahrain

As the first load of 400 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and launchers arrived by air in Saudi Arabia from the United States yesterday afternoon, President Khamenei of Iran - evidently anticipating American intervention in the Gulf war - warned Washington that Iran would "resist and fight" any US forces sent to the battle zone and implied that Iran would sink US warships if they participated in the conflict.

In a sarcastic attack on President Reagan's decision to send military supplies to the Gulf, Mr Khamenei told a parade of Iranian naval personnel at the port of Bandar Abbas that "if the Americans are prepared to sink in the depths of the Persian Gulf waters for nothing, then let them come with their faith, motivation and divine power".

An American KC10 tanker aircraft, capable of refuelling Saudi jets in mid-air, was also reported to have entered Saudi airspace last night. According to newspaper reports in the Gulf, up to 30 US advisers accompanied the shipment of hand-held missiles into a Saudi airfield yesterday to teach Saudi personnel how to fire the weapons.

However, the authorities in Riyadh - anxious as ever to present an image of neutrality in the Gulf war - have disclosed

no details of the latest stage in America's military cooperation with their country.

President Khamenei had more to say about the allegations of the Arab Gulf states during his address at Bandar Abbas, at the very Straits of Hormuz, yesterday. "If certain Persian Gulf states are truly neutral", he said, "they will certainly be immune from invasion. But it is not possible for the bases, the Awacs, port facilities and flag of your country to be used by the Iraqi regime and then claim neutrality". A neighbour who wants to deliver a blow at us is more dangerous than a stranger, and we should face that danger.

Iran, Mr Khamenei said, would stand against those neighbours who intended to strike blows against it. "The response of aggression is aggression... US threats of new weapon and aircraft deliveries will not deter the resolute determination of the Islamic Republic".

Meanwhile, well aware that the Gulf states are still giving financial support to Iraq, oil tender crews in the Gulf are taking the Iranian statements seriously. Several vessels on the Kuwait run through the sea-lanes north-west of Bahrain are

Continued on back page, col 1

Police hold 84 as pickets battle to stop coke run

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Eighty-four people were arrested and 64 injured when striking miners staged a bloody but unsuccessful rerun of the famous 1972 "Battle of Saltley" at a Yorkshire coke works yesterday.

Stones, wooden fencing spars, a shovel and a bucket were among missiles hurled at police in riot gear who held back as many as 7,000 pickets trying to halt the movement of coking coal from Orgreave to the British Steel works at Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire.

Amid fumes and explosions from smoke bombs, thunder-flashes and firecrackers, two convoys of 34 lorries raced through the mass picket with supplies for blastfurnaces said to be at risk from fuel starvation.

Violence on the Orgreave picket line, just outside Sheffield, flared on the eve of peace talks between leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Coal Board, due to begin today at a secret location. A South Yorkshire police officer named Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the union, for inflaming the situation.

Superintendent Tony Pratt said last night: "This picket line, in the four days that I have been in control, has not had any violent animosity towards the police. That has appeared in the last two days and Mr Scargill has appeared here in the last two days."

Mr Scargill counter-charged that there had been "almost unbelievable brutality" by the police and predicted that the picketing would resume in force today. "We did it at Grunwick, and we can do it here," he said.

His comparison was drawn with the blockade at a London film-processing laboratory in the mid-1970s but a closer

parallel is with the mass picket which closed down the Saltley coke depot in Birmingham by 20,000 pitmen and their supporters during the first big miners' strike. The city's chief constable was forced to close the depot, but senior police officers last night insisted that the same will not happen again at Orgreave.

Yesterday's ugly scenes, when missiles of every description were thrown and mounted police chased pickets in running battles across fields, add an extra dimension of urgency to

Crumbling pits back page

the talks on the future of the industry beginning today somewhere outside London.

Senior management from the coal board will put forward proposals under the "principles" of the 1974 Plan for Coal designed to restart serious negotiations that could end the bitter, 12-week-old strike. Only 14 pits out of 176 were working normally yesterday; all the rest were on strike or on holiday.

Trouble began yesterday morning when 35 lorries, heavily protected by wire mesh, arrived at the cokerworks to load up. Pickets surged forward under a hail of missiles and firecrackers, and police using riot gear for the first time since the dispute began went in to make arrests. One officer broke a leg falling from his horse. The convoy got through.

Violence broke out again when the lorries returned, and pickets scattered across a field as a posse of mounted police pursued them, followed by officers carrying riot shields. Fighting continued as the second convoy left for Scunthorpe.

Continued on back page, col 2

Tory unionists to be levy watchdogs

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Tory trade unionists are to be recruited by the Government to supervise a campaign against the Labour Party's political levy.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, is to ask sympathisers in the unions to police an agreement with the TUC that is designed to inform members of their right to contract out of the levy.

He will tell Tory rank and file at the Conservative Trade Unionists' conference in Birmingham next weekend, that they have a responsibility to hold TUC leaders to their word.

Tory unionists will be asked to check that national and local officials of more than 100 affiliated unions carry out to the letter a deal that is supposed to inform 10 million existing

members and all new members of their legal right to opt out of financial contributions to the Labour Party.

The TUC has drawn up guidance on how the agreement reached on February 15, should be spelled out to trade unionists, but detailed work is not expected to be completed before the end of next month.

Mr King is under intense pressure from his back benches and from Conservative trade union activists to go further than the original deal with the unions, by changing the law so the contracting out is replaced by contracting in.

But he will argue that the TUC must be given a chance to deliver on its promise to offer a free and unfettered choice to all union members to choose

Soldier dies in IRA bomb blast

A soldier was killed and another was seriously injured yesterday in a terrorist landmine attack on a joint army-police patrol at Mounthill, near Crossmaglen, in South Armagh (Richard Ford writes).

Lance Corporal Stephen Anderson, aged 23, died instantly when the bomb exploded in "bandit country" on the day he was celebrating his second wedding anniversary. He had a seven-month-old daughter and was from Hednesford in Staffordshire. He was serving with the 1st Battalion, Staffordshire Regiment. The injured soldier was flown to hospital in Belfast where last night he was seriously ill with facial and head injuries.

The Provisional IRA admitted responsibility for the murder.

Man dies in heart drug test

Tests on a new heart drug were halted yesterday when a man aged 30 died 15 minutes after taking it at a private Dublin clinic.

The director of the clinic, Dr Austin Darragh, said: "We have to work on the assumption that there is a connexion between the drug and his death".

The drug, code-named 3791, is being tested at the Institute for Clinical Pharmacology in Dublin for a German firm.

The dead man, Niall Rush, and three other men also aged 30, were given the drug voluntarily at 10am yesterday. Fifteen minutes later Mr Rush, who was a single man, was dead. The other three men were said to be "fit and well".

The drug has been undergoing tests at the clinic for a year and more than 40 doses have been administered to volunteers. It is still at the trial stage and not commercially available. The drug is being tested for use in regulating heart beat in patients.

The clinic employs 110 people and has been open for 14 years. Dr Darragh described the clinic as "one of the biggest in the world".

Volunteers are paid £16 a day together with bed and meals for taking part in tests.

Dr Darragh said: "We now have to find out exactly what happened. We are medically and morally obliged to make the assumption that there is a connexion between the drug and the death".

Observer talks

The future of *The Observer* was still in doubt last night after a meeting between its owners, Lordi, and the paper's management to discuss the threatened closure of the paper after Sunday's loss of publication.

Tossed on the wheel of fortune, they battled with each other and the ghosts of a turbulent past

Susan Howatch The Wheel of Fortune

A compelling family saga from the bestselling author of *Penmarcic*

£9.95

HAMISH HAMILTON

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Region	Change in relative earnings (%)	Change in relative unemployment (%)
East	+1.4	+10
Anglia	+4.5	-
East of England	+4.5	-14
Midlands	-9.4	+20
Midlands	-2.2	+22
West, Humber	+3.1	+26
East	+2.7	+20
North	-	-20
West	-	-23
Scotland	+3.4	-30
Ireland	+4.8	-49

* = no change

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

£3.5m coal drill begins off the Tyne

By David Young

Mr David Archibald, the board's North-East area director, said: "If the miners on strike in our coalfield need evidence of good future prospects they cannot have a more dramatic illustration than capital investment on such a massive scale being introduced during such a crippling dispute. "The best way the Northumberland and Durham miners can respond to this initiative is to think deeply about returning to work."

PR	Employees	Output-Tonnes a year ODs
Scotland		
Barony	660	230
Corrie	1,100	420
Seafield	2,030	1,000
Yorkshire		
Brockworth	2,440	1,100
Hightate	2,450	720
Markham Main	1,330	880
St. James	1,300	700
Dodworth	1,368	637
Derbyshire		
Rushworth Park	580	440
Shirebrook	1,320	1,825
Worsop	1,410	1,000
Lancashire		
Bold	1,270	507
Sutton Manor	800	585
Kent		
Tilmanstone	640	200
Bethelanger	1,150	400

Thatcher plan to hand

By Peter Hennessy

The Wade-Gery group considered and rejected the possibility of training troops to drive coal trains if the rail unions

Issued by the Department of Health and Social Security


Enterprising Princess: A smile from the Princess of Wales as she watches the Prince of Wales open five small businesses he helped to establish in workshops built from dilapidated buildings at his farm near the couple's home, Highgrove, in Gloucestershire.

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Its market share has fallen from about 30 per cent and clear market leadership in the early 1970s to a disastrous 13.4 per cent in 1982. It reversed the trend last year, to 14.5 per cent, as new models made their presence felt.

That share compares with 19 per cent for Ford and Mercedes's 9.3 per cent, although the

By Michael Webster, Political Reporter



By Anthony Bevins

which told Mr. Ottaway: "Other help is also available, such as an allowance for the maintenance and insurance of the home and help on the interest payable on loans taken out for necessary repairs and improvement."

By Richard Garner
of The Times Educational
Supplement

● The National Union of Public Employees has asked its manual and ancillary workers at Scottish universities to strike tomorrow in support of their pay claim. It comes after the rejection of the employers' latest 4.5 per cent pay offer.

By a Special Correspondent

**Police on trial
over killing
of IRA man**

Three RUC officers went on trial in Belfast yesterday accused of murdering Eugene Toman, a member of the IRA.

were fired into their car after police chase. However, the prosecution alleges that nine significant shots were fired into the vehicle by the constable after it had stopped.

Commission of watchdogs, not lapdogs

The change became clear quickly. Any suspicions that the new body would be a lapdog rather than a watchdog were dispelled when its chairman, Lord Montagu, of Beaulieu, wrote to *The Times* denouncing

Most of the buildings for which the commission is responsible are ancient monuments, castles and ruins. The royal palaces, the Tower of London, Hampton Court and the Palace of Westminster.

The trust is not convinced. It sees the English Heritage scheme, which offers admission to all commission properties, plus the royal palaces, for £8 a year, as commercial competition, and fears that the commission will try to "poach" its members.

Overseas selling prices.
Austria Sch 25; Belgium Frs 50; Canada
\$2.70; Canada Frs 1.70; Cyprus 700 mil
Denmark Dir 8.00; Finland DM 8.00
France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 8.00
Greece Dr 100; Holland G 5.40; Irish
Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Frs
120; Madeira Esc 120; Morocco Dir 8.00
Norway Kr 1.50; Portugal Esc 15; Portugal
Esc 120; Singapore \$4.00; Spain Ptas 1.20
Sweden Skr 5.40; Switzerland Frs 5.00
Turkey Lir 0.70; USA \$1.72; Yugoslavia

Church urges law change to allow a step-child and step-parent to marry

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The law should be changed to allow a person to marry an in-law or step-parent, according to a majority report from a commission set up by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

The commission was divided about allowing marriage within step-relationships. The majority favoured it in all cases, although they suggested a minimum age of 21 when the younger person had lived as a member of the same family as the step-parent.

However, the minority group on the commission thought that such marriages, where both lived in the same family, should still be prohibited. They argued: "By ruling out the possibility that step-parent and step-child could ever marry the existing impediment reduces the temptation for them to see each other as likely sexual partners (which implies, of course, the child's seeing his or her natural parent as a sexual rival for the affection of the step-parent)."

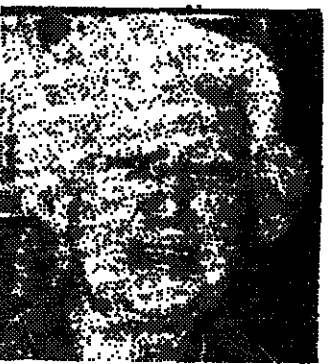
The minority also upheld the continuation of the legal ban on parent-in-law marriages, but not where grand-parents in law were concerned.

However, both groups agreed, that step-child/step-parent marriages should be allowed if the two had never lived together in the same family, the majority recommended the abolition of

the complex list of affinity relationships within which marriage is illegal, given in the Marriage Act, 1949.

The commission also agreed that the clergy of the Church of England should be entitled, for reasons of conscience, to refuse to marry couples with an affinity relationship. That would be analogous to their right to refuse to marry divorced couples.

The commission concluded that certain restrictions ought to be placed on step-child/step-parent marriages because of the "risk to the integrity of the household". It notes, however, that "We think that marriage between in-laws would in practice be rare... and that most people might still prefer to avoid them."



Lady Seear: "Marriage is a natural liberty."

The commission was chaired by Lady Seear, who said yesterday that it had adopted the approach that "marriage is not a right conferred by statute, but a natural liberty". It had tried to remove restrictions as far as possible.

The commission was not concerned with the law of incest, nor with Scottish or Northern Ireland law, although it did recommend a uniform standard throughout the United Kingdom. In Scotland some relationships are regarded as legally incestuous which would be considered affinity cases in English law.

Dr Runcie set up the commission when the Lords was considering a private member's Bill to change the law on affinity, to give detailed consideration to the issues, and the Bill was withdrawn accordingly. In three recent cases couples related by affinity have gained freedom to marry by promoting private Bills in Parliament, which the commission said was an expensive procedure.

None of the proposed changes affect couples with a blood-relationship (consanguinity), and in none of the affinity relationships is sexual intercourse outside marriage a criminal offence.

No Just Cause (C/O Publishing, Church House, Westminster, London SW1, £5.50).

Unplanned pregnancies study opens

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Britain's main contraceptive manufacturers are funding a study with the Health Education Council and the Family Planning Association to identify two million women who are at risk of unplanned pregnancies.

The association estimates there are about 200,000 unplanned pregnancies in Britain every year among two million women who are sexually active but do not practise reliable birth control. About 130,000 of the pregnancies end in abortion.

Figures from the association and the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys suggest that about 11.5 million women in Britain are in the fertile age range.

About six million use reliable contraception, such as the pill, the sheath, an intra-uterine device, or the cap. Another 3.5 million are either not sexually active, sub-fertile, are trying to conceive or are pregnant.

That leaves about two million at risk of unintended pregnancies. The association's spokesman said: "We want to try to identify what groups these women are in, why they do not use family planning services from clinics or family doctors, and what kind of advice they need."

Estimates of sexually active women and contraception in UK, 1981	
	millions
Women in fertile age range	11.5
Using reliable contraception	6.0
	5.5
Less	(millions)
Not sexually active	0.5
Sub-fertile	0.7
Trying to conceive or pregnant	0.6
One partner sterilized	1.7
	3.5
Estimated sexually active but not using reliable	2.0
Source: Family Planning Association	

Hospitals planning extended holidays

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Cash-starved National Health Service hospitals in the London area are planning to introduce holiday breaks in August or to extend their Christmas breaks in an attempt to stay within budget.

Whipps Cross Hospital in east London is to close four of its thirty-six wards for a fortnight in August, deferring about two hundred non-urgent operations and two thousand outpatient appointments in an attempt to save £50,000.

Oldchurch Hospital, in Romford, Essex, is considering a similar move, but is more likely to opt for an extended two-week Christmas break, with routine outpatient appointments cancelled. King's College Hospital, in south London, has considered a two-week break in August to try to save about £30,000, but is likely instead to extend its Christmas closure to

non-emergency cases. The hospitals argue that the closure to non-emergency cases during holiday periods when people are often reluctant to go into hospital is a sensible use of resources.

Mr Steve Ramsden, deputy administrator of Oldchurch Hospital, which overspent by about £250,000 last year, said: "It makes good sense not to have four or five wards with twenty empty beds in them, but to close, say, three of them and have two wards fully occupied."

Family doctors, however, are worried. Dr Arnold Elliott, treasurer of the Redbridge and Waltham Forest local medical committee, said: "This will put all the waiting lists for routine stuff back fantastically. We are not dealing with industry where everything can stop for a fortnight, but with people's medical problems."

Tight security as bomb charge hearing begins

A big security operation was launched in London yesterday when committal proceedings began against two Ulstermen charged in connection with a series of bombings in the capital in 1981.

Armed police were on duty in and around Lambeth Magistrates' Court as Mr Paul Kavanagh and Mr Thomas Quigley, both aged 28, arrived separately in armoured prison vans escorted by patrol cars.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted. Mr Kavanagh, unemployed, of no fixed address, and Mr Quigley, unemployed, of Glencala Road, Belfast, both face ten charges. They are:

Conspiring with others to cause explosions between August 7, 1981, and November 13, 1981; The murder of Mrs Nora Field, aged 39, who died when a bomb exploded outside Chelsea Barracks, Ebury Bridge Road, on October 10, 1981;

The murder of Mr John Breslin on October 13, 1981; The murder of Mr Kenneth Howarth, a bomb disposal expert, aged 49 from Bracknell, Berkshire, on October 26, 1981, at a Wimpy Bar in Oxford Street;

The attempted murder of Sir Stewart Pringle, Commandant-General of the Royal Marines in a car bomb explosion outside his home in Dulwich, on October 17, 1981; Causing an explosion on October 10, 1981, at Ebury Bridge Road, causing an explosion on October 17, 1981, outside Sir Stewart Pringle's home;

Causing an explosion on October 26, 1981, at the Oxford Street Wimpy Bar; Unlawfully and maliciously placing a device with intent to cause an explosion on October 26, 1981, at Debenhams' store in Oxford Street;

Causing an explosion on November 13, 1981, at the home of the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, in Woodhayes Road, Wimbeldon.

The hearing was adjourned until today.



Reaching for the sky: Competitors in the British Free-Flight Model Championships launching their craft at RAF Barkston Heath, Lincolnshire. The rubber-powered class was won by John O'Donnell, from Whitefield, Greater Manchester; Stafford Screen, from Birmingham, won the engine-powered category, and Colin Shepherd, from Birmingham, the glider class. The three-day event ended on Monday. (Photographs: John Manning)

Seafront railing death hunt

By Tony Samstag

Kent police were questioning children aged 10 to 12 yesterday about the death by electric shock of a youth in Margate on Monday.

Michael Wellard, aged 16, of Bexley, Kent, died instantly when he touched a seafront railing that had been wired to the mains. Two policemen who were examining a junction box near by which had been vandalized tried to revive him with the kiss of life and heart massage.

The junction box, one of many along the seafront, is a brick-built cabinet housing a fusebox and meter and owned by Thanet District Council. Originally built to supply a beach cafe, it is now connected to a ticket machine at the Sunken Gardens car park off



Michael Wellard: Killed instantly.

the Royal Esplanade at West Brook.

Such installations are normally secured with a sturdy padlock; but last Friday the South Eastern Electricity Board was called to replace the padlock and hasp, which had been vandalized.

At the weekend, vandals had again used "determination and force" against the new lock, an electricity board official said yesterday, and had been lucky not to be killed themselves by the 240-volt current. The incident, the board says, could not have been accidental.

The police said their investigations were likely to continue for some time and early developments were unlikely. Whether the tragedy raised any questions of general security on electrical installations was for the inquest to decide.

The victim's parents, Mr and Mrs William Wellard, of Isis Avenue, Bexley, said yesterday that their son had left school in Bexleyheath a few weeks ago and found a job as a barrister's junior clerk in the City. Teachers described him as "bright and industrious".

Britain's low air fares policy threatened by Dutch refusal

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Britain's new cheap fares policy for Europe appeared to crash on take-off yesterday when the Dutch Government refused permission for a range of cheap fares between London and Amsterdam.

The immediate casualties are £49 returns, compared with £78 now, due to be introduced by British Airways, KLM, British Caledonian, and Air UK in July, together with a proposed £30 fare to Maastricht by British's new Virgin Atlantic airline.

In the longer term the Dutch decision - which Dutch government officials refused to confirm last night but which is regarded by British sources as firm - is highly embarrassing to the British Government.

Britain had hoped to use a relatively liberal Dutch regime as a kind of Trojan horse to bring about cheaper fares to Europe generally.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Britain's secretary of State for Transport,

who introduced the policy with a flourish at the Council of Ministers earlier this month, is to fly out for urgent talks with the Dutch next week in an effort to bring them back into line.

British Airways said last night: "We are extremely disappointed. This illustrates the serious problems we encounter even from a liberal-minded government when trying to introduce reduced fares. British Airways will continue its efforts to bring in lower fares, whatever the difficulties."

British Caledonian said: "The situation is by no means clear but does not look hopeful. We hope to have clarification tomorrow."

The Dutch are regarded as Europe's most liberal aviation state after Britain. Mr Ridley's hope was that a new liberal regime between Britain and The Netherlands would pave the way for cheaper fares and freer competition with harder-line

states such as France, West Germany, and Italy, whose main preoccupation are seen by Britain as keeping their state airlines aloft rather than serving the customer.

Dutch refusal, therefore, suggests a serious miscalculation in the British plan or some new factor.

Many British passengers already fly cheaply to Amsterdam with under-the-counter tickets to take advantage of cheap long-haul flights from Schiphol, which in many cases are 30 per cent below those charged from Heathrow.

British Rail is extending its cheap InterCity Saver fares to Europe, with cuts of up to half in returns to various European cities.

For stays no longer than five days the London to Paris return is £33 (second class period return £58), to Brussels £32 (£48); to Cologne £42 (£65); to Lyons £67.70 (£92.70), and to Lausanne £72.50 (£100.90).

Most shoplifters young and male, study shows

By Kenneth Gosling

The popular stereotype of the shoplifter as a mentally unbalanced middle-aged or elderly woman is not confirmed by the statistics. As with most other crime, the known offender is typically young and male according to a briefing paper published by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Ms Vivien Stern, the association's director, says shops have a moral obligation to take reasonable steps to deter the professional shoplifter, discourage the impulsive thief, and protect the absent-minded shopper.

"The extent to which shops take steps to prevent theft varies greatly and the desire to make goods accessible and attractive to customers can outweigh the need for security measures to reduce shoplifting," she says.

Rigid policies, she adds, fail to distinguish the deliberate shoplifter from the confused shopper. In some cases all that may be needed is an official or informal police caution. Guidelines covering cautioning for

SHOPLIFTING IN ENGLAND AND WALES

	Recorded offences	Yearly rise (%)
1972	128,844	2.8
1973	130,161	26.0
1974	154,063	18.4
1975	175,552	7.0
1976	180,993	3.1
1977	217,276	20.0
1978	233,643	(8.9)
1979	203,122	(-)
1980	206,175	1.5
1981	225,342	9.3
1982	242,304	7.5

**Denotes an insignificant amount.

Source: Home.

minor offences were published two months ago.

The association's paper makes several points about the nature of shoplifting offences, based on 1982 figures.

Most cases involved goods worth less than £25 and in half the value was less than £5; magistrates dealt with 95 per cent of cases and more than half the cases were dealt with by fines, most below £30. More men (76,893) than women (56,904) were dealt with by the police and more than half were under 21.

Radio prize for David Jacobs

David Jacobs, until earlier this year a presenter of the BBC's *Any Questions?* yesterday received the Sony gold award for outstanding contributions to radio over the years.

Mr Jacobs, who also hosts *Melodies for You* and television's *Come Dancing*, was presented with the award, known as Britain's "Radio Oscar", by Princess Margaret in London.

Radio 4 won seven of the awards. Radio 3 received most of the awards in the drama categories. Piccadilly Radio, the Manchester-based station, headed the independent radio table with three awards.

Other awards went: Best actress: Maureen O'Brien, for *The Duchess of the Desert* and *A Month in the Country* (Radio 3); best actor: Clive Merrison, for *Luther* (Radio 3); male personality of the year: Brian Matthews (Radio 2); female personality of the year: Margaret Howard (Radio 4); Radio reporter of the year: Gerald Butt (BBC Radio); best magazine programme: *The Food Programme* (Radio 4).

Morecambe funeral will be private

The funeral of Eric Morecambe, the comedian, will be held on Monday at St Nicholas Church, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, a mile from where he lived.

The ceremony, and the cremation service afterwards, will be strictly private, his family said yesterday. However, arrangements are being made to relay the church service by loudspeaker to hundreds of people who are expected to gather outside to pay their last respects.

Eric Wise, Mr Morecambe's showbusiness partner, said he was preparing a "dignified and reverent eulogy" for the funeral.

Morecambe, the seaside town from which the comedian took his name, was considering its own tribute.

Mr Bill Mashiter, Mayor of Lancaster, which includes Morecambe, had sent the town's expressions of sympathy to Mrs Joan Morecambe. A civic tribute could follow.

Mr Bill Pearson, town clerk, said: "The council will give deep consideration as to how to remember one of the favourite sons of Morecambe."

Burnt straw aid to pepper crop

A smallholder has grown a crop of green peppers after keeping the plants warm during the winter by burning waste straw. Mr Neil Hopkinson installed a Danish-built straw burning unit on his smallholding at Crowland Common, near Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, at a cost of £80,000.

During the winter he burned 350 tons of straw which have the heat equivalent of 30,000 gallons of heating oil worth £20,000.

Lord Howe dies aged 75

Lord Howe, the Conservative peer and campaigner for hiker speed limits who once boasted that he had six speeding convictions, died today, aged 75, at his Buckingham home.

Vice-chairman of the Royal Automobile Club and president of the Institute of Road Safety Officers, Lord Howe was a former racing driver who claimed to be one of the first motorists to have broken the 30mph speed limit.

Obituary, page 1.

Larkin favourite

William Hill, the bookmaker, is offering odds on who will be appointed the next Poet Laureate. Philip Larkin is 7-favourite, with Ted Hughes a 5-1, Roy Fuller 6-1, D. J. Enright 7-1, Stephen Spender 8-1, Gavin Ewart 10-1, and Robert Graves 16-1.

Intruder fined

Christopher Yeo, aged 30, of Croydon, South London, was convicted by Bow Street magistrates yesterday of causing £5 of damage to a police van in February after he was arrested trying to enter a reception attended by the Prince of Wales. He was conditionally discharged for a year.

Cygnets saved

The draining of the lake at Radley College in Oxfordshire for restocking with trout was halted yesterday after protests that cygnets there would die of lack of water. The work will continue when the cygnets are older.

Snake plague

Environmental health officers have been called in to combat a plague of adders on housing estate at Haverfordwest, Dyfed.

'Grave doubts' in Flockton Grey case

The Flockton Grey case remains a mystery and there are still grave doubts about which horse won the race at the centre of the swindle allegation, Mr George Carman, Q.C., for the defence, said in his final speech at York Crown Court yesterday.

Kenneth Richardson, the racehorse owner, and two other men are said to have entered and won with a three-year-old called Good Hand in a two-year-old race at Leicester in the guise of a two-year-old falsely named Flockton Grey.

Mr Richardson, aged 46 and his racing manager, Colin

Mathison, aged 46, are alleged to have masterminded the switch to benefit from betting coup.

Mr Carman said three veterinary experts' evidence suggested the horse which won by 20 lengths was not the "ringer", Good Hand.

Four markings given on Good Hand's identification documents were missing on the winner but were on the horse discovered later in a field at Glaisdale, North Yorkshire, he said.

"There is no evidence of any disguise", Mr Carman said.

He described Mr Stephen Wiles, Flockton Grey's registered trainer, and his wife as "proven self-confessed liars". Mr Wiles had said he was duped into running the horse, which he had not himself trained, in order to have a winner.

Mr Richardson, of Hutton, near Driffield, Hampshire, and Mr Mathison, of Driffield, and a horsebox driver, Peter Boddy, also of Driffield, deny conspiracy to defraud and conspiracy to obtain property by deception.

The trial continues today.

Nissan launches fleet war flagship

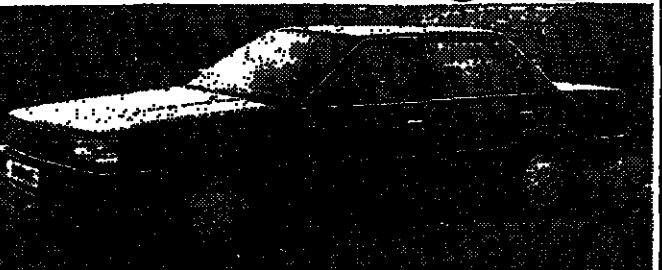
By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Nissan, manufacturer of the best selling range of Japanese cars in Britain, is joining the battle for the huge fleet market with a new challenger for the Ford Sierra, Vauxhall Cavalier, and Austin Montego.

The front-wheel drive Nissan Bluebird which goes on sale today offers eight versions with a choice of traditional saloons, five-door estates, and 1.8 litre, 1.8 turbo, and 2-litre engines.

The switch from rear-wheel drive with the engine mounted transversely makes this the roomiest Bluebird yet. At 26,094, the 1.8 DX base model is also cheaper than its predecessor.

More expensive versions also undercut equivalent models in competitors' ranges.



Challenger: The Nissan Bluebird two-litre SGL. The 2-litre GL costs £6,494 compared with £7,195 for the Montego 2-litre HL and £7,451 for the Sierra 2-litre GL.

Nissan is preparing the ground for 1986 when it starts selling cars assembled in Britain. It is recruiting fleet car salesmen and building up a fleet department.

'Sales grow for home computers'

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

Britain's home computer market is still growing, according to the top microcomputer supplier and high street retailer, despite the reports from the United States that sales are declining.

W. H. Smith has reported no important change in the market, which was worth £28m last year to the retail group, up from £15m the previous year. Sinclair, the leading supplier of low-cost home computers is on target, selling about 40,000 to 50,000 of its Spectrum model a month.

Last year British Home Computer sales were expected to reach about one million, but totalled a surprising 1.4 million. The prediction for this year is more than 1.5 million.

Manufacturers have been surprised at the decline of the United States market and only half of its £2,000m sales forecast for this year may be realized if the poor sales of the past four months continue.

Acorn, with its BBC Micro-computer and its own machine, the Electron, and Sinclair, with its Spectrum and Commodore, are among the leading manufacturers who have heavily marketed the educational value of their home computers.

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Reagan woos the Irish

Ballyporeen's presidential ballyhoo

BEAL ATHA PÓIRIN
BALLYPÓREEN

From Richard Ford
Ballyporeen, co Tipperary

The smell is of paint and the sound is of hammering and bulldozers while a village is transformed to greet its most famous native son, President Reagan.

By no stretch of the imagination an attractive village, Ballyporeen, the town of the little potatoes, has been thrust into the late twentieth century in just four months.

Four new automatic public telephones have been installed, public lavatories built, litter bins put out and roads and pavements resurfaced.

Every house in the village population, 350, has been painted, along with the school and parish hall, derelict sites have been cleared and the avenue has been trimmed - because Ronald and Nancy Reagan will spend three hours here next Sunday receiving a thousand Irish welcomes.

The ballyhoo surrounding Ballyporeen has also brought its advantages. Coachloads of tourists who missed the place on their way from Dublin to Cork now pass along its main street and day trippers bring congestion and parking problems.

The memorabilia industry is flourishing, entrepreneurs have started two new cafes and a van selling hot dogs, and enterprising villagers are offering chips and fried fish, and bed and breakfast.

At The White House a former salesman, Mr Peter Callaghan, is laughing - probably all the way to the bank. He has been a four-month lease at £300 a month, to open premises for "Smoked Salmon at the White House".

He said: "With my mark-up I'm not going wrong. Business is very well. After all, there's nothing else to do at Ballyporeen."

The Little Potato Kitchen serves home-made fare in a room with open hearth, kettle and grandfather clock, although few doors away there is the one the Reagans and the tourists will never view. A one-room cottage, with a stone floor, running water, an open hearth and grimy walls, is home to an elderly man.

In the Ronald Reagan lounge interviews with the press, Mr John O'Farrell, an appointment only. He has come busy upstairs in the gift shop and the price of a tiny tin of mud from the field where the President's cesters lived has risen from 10p to 50p.

There are more extravagant souvenirs for those wishing



Easy does it: The pace of life has not changed for some inhabitants of Ballyporeen.

Visit is part of re-election campaign

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

When President Reagan arrives in Ireland on Friday his thoughts will be more firmly focused on the 43 million men and women of Irish descent living in the United States than on the 3.5 million inhabitants of the Irish Republic.

His three-day visit to the land of his forefathers is an integral part of his re-election campaign. The incessant flow of shots of Mr Reagan's tour around the Emerald Isle that will dominate American television screens is intended to woo one of the largest American voting groups to Mr Reagan's side in the November presidential election.

Many Irish-Americans live in such traditionally Democratic enclaves as New York

and Massachusetts. However, the largest group, about 10 million, live in the President's home state, California.

Mr Reagan is the third American President to attempt to make political capital by visiting Ireland. President Kennedy went there in 1963 to mark his triumph as the first Roman Catholic to be elected US President.

President Nixon, whose Irish roots were questionable, paid a visit during the 1970 campaign. He was the first presidential candidate to use a visit to Ireland to win the support of Irish-American voters.

No one questions Mr Reagan's Irish antecedents. His great-grandfather, Michael, was born in Ballyporeen, in co

Tipperary in 1829 and later emigrated to the US. A visit to Ballyporeen will be the highlight of Mr Reagan's visit.

The president will also receive an honorary degree at the National University of Ireland in Galway, address the two Houses of the Irish Parliament and hold talks with Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the Irish Prime Minister.

Reagan campaign aides see the president's trip as a magnificent public relations opportunity to portray him as a world statesman and man of the people.

What they fear, however, is that anti-Reagan demonstrators could transform what is intended to be a serene homecoming into an angry brawl.

a baby daughter, Catherine Nancy.

He will meet the parish priest and attend a prayer service before inspecting the parish record showing that his great grandfather was baptised a year after the church was built.

However, the Reagan's visit is also attracting protests from academics and Roman Catholic clergy, and at least 20 senators and deputies will boycott the President's address to both houses of the Irish Parliament.

Leading article, page 13

European elections

Minister tells of partners' sneers

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, disclosed yesterday that government negotiations on the C had been undermined by "sneers" about British emigration to remain in the community.

His statement, designed tophasize a claim that Labour would encounter greater difficulties, could well embarrass Conservative ministers during campaign for the European assembly elections on June 14.

It implies that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's approach to negotiations may have been counterproductive, provoking suspicion about British intentions.

Mr King told a European Union press conference that British ministers had had a "problem of carrying conviction" in negotiations. He said: "We have done five years in inter-councils of ministers

of one sort and another, and some of these negotiations are very tough indeed. People are fighting their corners very hard."

The thing that has undermined us so often is the sort of implication, the sort of sneer: "We are not even sure that you want to stay in."

"Now if that has been a problem for the Conservative ministers, absolutely committed to Europe as we have been, and having achieved our original accession and carried it through, the idea that one of the other parties would carry conviction in any way at all in trying to negotiate... the Labour Party would be a joke."

Mr King said that a strong Conservative voice was required in the European Parliament to bolster the effort of ministers negotiating in Brussels.

Mr John Gummer, the Conservative Party chairman, emphasized the point of Conservative conviction. He said:

"We have enough difficulty in making sure our partners see we are committed to Europe in the Conservative Party. The Labour Party would find it totally impossible."

He said that Labour's 78 candidates had been asked by their Conservative opponents to sign a declaration of support for British membership.

From election literature, only six had been identified as committed supporters: Mr Gordon Adam, Northumbria; Mr Kenneth Collins, Strathclyde East; Mr Derek Enright, Kent East; Ms Carol Tongue, London East; Mr David Blackman, Midlands Central; and Mr Bryan Heading, Norfolk.

Mr Gummer said: "There is not much point in taking part in a European election for an institution you wish to undermine from within."

"What we have got to do is actually to make the terms of our membership more and more favourable to Britain."

Opposition's EEC dissenters

By David Cross

The Labour Party's decision to push for votes at next month's European elections has left dissenting anti-market-makers out on a limb.

With Labour's Common Market Safeguards Committee urging its members to vote on June 14, the only organization encouraging people to abstain is the British Anti-Common Market Campaign.

From its headquarters in Fulham High Street in London and from its 15 branches across the country, it is 2,000 to 3,000 members are telling voters that it is wrong to seek election to a parliament "to which we are utterly opposed and from which we seek to withdraw."

The organization, which also acts as an umbrella group for the members of the Anti-Market League, is trying to influence the electorate with what it describes as a Campaign for Truth.

"The facts are quite clear," one statement says, "despite much propaganda issued in the Euro-election campaign, membership of the Common Market has cost us jobs."

Another complains about some of the "inaccurate and misleading" information being put forward by pro-market-makers about new EEC investments in Britain. "Membership of the EEC has damaged both the extent and future prospects for Japanese and American direct investment in Britain," it says.

Mrs Margaret Conybeare, administrator of the campaign, acknowledges that her organization is very much a voice in the wilderness. But she believes that its views reflect those of many voters.

Germany, but also Britain.

"All the signs are the Foreign Office would like to move a lot faster on this question but the Government's reluctance to make any move at all means that we are being accused of being laggards in Europe."

At the Nato meeting, he said it would be necessary for Britain to explain what was to happen in 1986 when the United Kingdom would have an absolute decline in defence spending, on conventional arms, as was obvious from the £400m increase in the cost of Trident due to the fall in the value of the pound. How then was Nato to increase its conventional strength and put less reliance on nuclear weapons?

"It is no good ministers ignoring this," Dr Owen added. "It will be the first time that Britain and other European countries have backed off from the commitment to an annual increase of 3 per cent in defence spending in Nato."

This agreement actually runs out in 1985-86.

Dr Owen commended the European Parliament for calling for joint procurement of aircraft and weapons from European industries, in that way changing the present balance which was 10-1 in favour of equipment from the United States.

Plaid Cymru yesterday launched its campaign with a call for more Welsh seats to give the country a stronger voice in Brussels. The party complained that Wales has only four seats in the European Parliament compared with Ireland's 15 although both countries have similar populations.

Mr Dafydd Huys's candidate for South Wales, said: "It is no wonder that Wales suffers the disadvantages but enjoys few of the benefits of the EEC."

Sandinistas say rebels routed

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

The Sandinista Army says it is defeating the biggest offensive to date by US-backed rebels in northern and central Nicaragua after two-and-a-half months of intense fighting.

Rebel forces numbering between 5,000 and 8,000, which infiltrated Nueva Segovia, Jinotega and Matagalpa provinces in early March, have suffered heavy casualties and are now retreating towards Honduras, according to Commander Julio Ramos, head of military intelligence.

He put rebel losses since the offensive began at more than 900 while army losses, according to other sources, may have been about 600 killed or wounded.

Senior Army officers said the rebels were under orders to hold out deep inside Nicaragua, despite the terrible losses suffered by some of their units.

Zone Commander Javier Carrion, said: "They have lately opted to avoid combat. They hide and sleep during the day and flee by night."

Reports in the official Sandinista press say at least 13 state farming cooperatives have been attacked and burnt in the past weeks by retreating rebels, known as Contras, who have killed more than 60 civilians.

Commander Ramos said rebels of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force entered the country in columns which split into seven regional commando units, each comprising between 250 and 500 men. Some penetrated as far as 80 miles, breaking through minefields laid by the Sandinista Army in the border area with the help of US-supplied aerial detection methods and special trained sappers, who sometimes cleared the way by driving cattle through the minefields, he said.

Army officers in the combat zones said that in a departure from previous defence tactics, they did not try to expel the guerrillas back across the Honduran frontier but allowed them to a point where retreat would be more difficult.

One rebel unit of about 800 men under one of the most experienced rebel commanders,

codenamed "Mike Lima", was engaged in some of the fiercest fighting. Commander Carrion said 300 of "Lima's" men were killed and 200 wounded or captured. Another unit of some 1,000 men under a commander codenamed "Suruliano" had been badly mauled elsewhere in Jinotega with the loss of about half its forces.

But, according to a high-ranking Sandinista official, one big Contra group has established itself successfully in an uninhabited sector of northern Jinotega where it acts as a

rearguard for retreating units while continuing to launch hit-and-run attacks on towns and state farms.

Commander Ramos said logistical support was being provided to the Contras by small aircraft.

Latest reports say the Sandinista Army has moved heavy artillery up to northern Jinotega in an effort to dislodge the entrenched rebel group.

TEGUCIGALPA: For the first time, Salvadoran soldiers have joined US and Honduran troops in manoeuvres that Washington hopes will discourage Nicaragua's close military relations with Cuba and the Soviet Union (AP reports).

A contingent of 1,300 troops from El Salvador were flown on Monday to exercise sites in Cucuyagua, about 25 miles from the Salvadoran border, and Jamastrán, about 20 miles from the Nicaraguan border, according to military sources. Also participating are 1,300 Honduran troops and 1,000 US troops.



From Bruno Lopez, Las Delicias, Mexico

miles south-east of Mexico City. "They even took life of a pregnant mother and shot her many, many times," Señor Tomas Mancera Francisco, another of the refugees, recalled.

Interviewed by The Times in Las Delicias where the refugees have built a temporary camp with the aid of the Mexican Government, Señor Mancera Francisco, aged 48, remembered sadly how an 11-year-old boy was found castrated and beheaded.

According to church groups operating in southern Mexico, this was the sixty-eighth armed incursion into Mexico from Guatemala. A total of 13 refugees and two Mexican peasants have been killed during the past two years.

The Guatemalan Government blamed the latest attack on leftist rebels, but the Mexican Government on May 14 issued a harsh communiqué saying investigations "have not rendered proof" of Guatemala's version.

Some 46,000 Guatemalan refugees living in Mexico have been ordered by the Government into a new, long exodus that will take them farther away from their country.

The decision was announced after 200 men dressed in Guatemalan Army fatigues crossed three miles into Mexico and stormed the El Chupadero refugee camp, witnesses said.

Speaking in a mixture of Spanish and Mam (a Mayan language) one of the refugees, Señor Pedro Pascual, described the April 30 incident. "The armies first wounded a friend in edge of camp, and then armies went into the camp and killed three more." By the end of a five-hour occupation of the camp, a total of six Guatemalans, men, women and children, were dead, and six more injured.

Señor Pascual said he and the rest of the 3,000 Guatemalans living at El Chupadero ran for 30 minutes until they reached the town of Las Delicias, 10 miles from the border and 466

Exodus is nothing new to the refugees. Thousands of Guatemalans have been on the move since late 1981, when the first refugee camp was founded in Chiapas by Indians fleeing what Amnesty International called a series of "large-scale massacres" of peasants during an Army counter-insurgency operation.

The official said the refugees will be relocated during the next few months in the Edzna valley, a sparsely populated tropical savannah along the Gulf of Mexico. "They will finally be safe from armed incursions. One hundred miles of jungle will separate them from the border," the officials said.

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Owen onslaught on 'fatalism'

By George Clark

David Owen, the Socialist Labour Party leader, yesterday criticised Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock their "overwhelming mood pessimism and fatalism" in international cooperation.

He was addressing a Euro-election briefly given by Liberal/SDP Alliance.

Mr Owen particularly attacked the Prime Minister for passivity. He called it "idly in the face of important developments in Europe which will affect future defence and employment prospects."

to one, he said, should errate the importance of the rings taking place between President Francois Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany.

Mr Kinnock seems to understand the relevance of the "positive proposals that are being put forward by our partners, whether they be in the European Community, or in the Atlantic alliance," Dr Owen said.

It really is time that Britain unites to set the pace, instead of



Chancellor Kohl (left) and President Mitterrand.

constantly reacting to the ideas and initiatives of others.

"The Franco-German entente is moving at a very rapid rate. It is no use people shrugging their shoulders and pretending that nothing is happening. We are now seeing a transformation of the basic politics of Europe."

Until recently, European cooperation had developed only on trade, economic policies and the overall coordination of foreign policy, Dr Owen said. But it was clear that France and West Germany had decided to combine together their defence security interests behind that decision, lay their proposal that the use of the Western European union should be developed.

Britain must become more enthusiastic about this relationship because the partnership, to be effective, must consist not just of France and West

Germany, but also Britain.

"All the signs are the Foreign Office would like to move a lot faster on this question but the Government's reluctance to make any move at all means that we are being accused of being laggards in Europe."

At the Nato meeting, he said it would be necessary for Britain to explain what was to happen in 1986 when the United Kingdom would have an absolute decline in defence spending, on conventional arms, as was obvious from the £400m increase in the cost of Trident due to the fall in the value of the pound. How then was Nato to increase its conventional strength and put less reliance on nuclear weapons?

"It is no good ministers ignoring this," Dr Owen added. "It will be the first time that Britain and other European countries have backed off from the commitment to an annual increase of 3 per cent in defence spending in Nato."

This agreement actually runs out in 1985-86.

Dr Owen commended the European Parliament for calling for joint procurement of aircraft and weapons from European industries, in that way changing the present balance which was 10-1 in favour of equipment from the United States.

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Step towards EEC integration

Mitterrand and Kohl decide at summit to abolish customs barriers

France and West Germany are to abolish customs formalities for people travelling between the two countries. The decision, made by President Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl at their latest regular meeting, underlines their determination to turn the European Community into a reality instead of a remote ideal.

Although Mitterrand, a Socialist, and Herr Kohl, a conservative, are ideologically far apart, their two-day meeting at Rambouillet, west of Paris, took the two countries along converging paths.

Admittedly some of their agreements were more symbolic than anything else. The disappearance of customs barriers will not, for example, speed up the flow of goods between France and West Germany, as it will still be subject to border inspections and delays.

But the two leaders' accord on a wide range of subjects coming as it does on the eve of

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

the elections to the European Parliament, will strengthen the hands of candidates who argue that the European ideal can be realized, given political determination and goodwill. Obviously, the French and West German emphasis on the Community's future is a criticism of what the two leaders see as Britain's lukewarm commitment.

Arguing that Europe must move rapidly towards true integration, Mitterrand said that the customs formalities between France and West Germany would end "within a few weeks."

Herr Kohl said that "we shall advance as rapidly as possible down the road of European integration."

Mitterrand went out of his way to buttress the friendship between the two countries. He has invited West German representatives to attend the fortieth anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy. In his view, "this will mark the

fact that German, also were the victims of the Normandy battles."

In September, Mitterrand and Herr Kohl will meet on the battlefield of Verdun to commemorate the death of German and French soldiers during the First World War.

While the two leaders were meeting in the Château de Rambouillet, their defence ministers, Herr Manfred Werner and M. Charles Hernu, agreed that their countries should collaborate in the development of a new anti-tank helicopter and study the possibilities of launching a military observation satellite.

The two countries are to cooperate also in the development of satellite television, a mobile radio-telephone system, information technology, and anti-pollution measures.

Commenting on these and other cooperation agreements, Herr Kohl said they were "designed to take us down the road to European integration."

Gulf crisis goes to top of Nato agenda

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Foreign Ministers from 16 Nato countries opened their thirty-fifth annual meeting here yesterday amid serious concern about the Gulf crisis and the impact it could have on their oil supplies.

Although the Gulf is not within Nato's area of operations, and although the alliance itself will not play a direct role in keeping the oil shipping lanes open, the topic was expected to head the agenda of the informal talks that the Foreign Ministers were holding last night and today in a secluded Georgetown mansion on the shores of Chesapeake Bay.

It was expected that the United States and other members of the alliance would announce moves this week to bolster the defences of Gulf countries. The United States is rushing 400 stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia and is making two more air-refuelling tanker aircraft available to the Arab kingdom.

Britain and France, as well as the United States, have naval forces in the region. The three countries have been in close consultation to prepare contingency plans in case the Gulf is closed to international shipping.

The Gulf crisis was discussed at a dinner meeting which Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, held with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at the British Embassy on Monday night.

Chernenko gives pledge to Greens

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Chernenko yesterday assured West Germans that, if Nato missiles were withdrawn from West German soil, Bonn would never be attacked by the Soviet Union.

Mr Chernenko was replying to a letter from Frau Petra Kelly, leader of the West German Greens. Tass said Frau Kelly had written asking what West Germany had to do to avoid becoming the target for Soviet nuclear or chemical weapons.

Addressing her as "Esteemed Madam Kelly", Mr Chernenko said West Germany would be "insured against a retaliatory strike" provided it never became a "bridgehead for the preparation and penetration of aggression against the Soviet Union and its allies."

Bonn could then be fully assured that nothing threatened it, the Soviet leader said. "He who turns others into a target inevitably becomes a target himself - there must be total clarity here."

Mr Chernenko reiterated Soviet disarmament proposals and declared that Russia was "resolutely against chemical weapons ever being used."

On Monday Mr Chernenko said at a Kremlin meeting that Soviet armed might needed to counteract an increasingly warlike Western world. He said diplomacy could "not accomplish everything."

Crocker ends secret mission

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Dr Chester Crocker, the American Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, was reported to have left for home via South Africa yesterday after talks in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, aimed at restarting negotiations on the future of Namibia (South-West Africa).

Lusaka was the venue for an inconclusive conference on Namibia earlier this month.

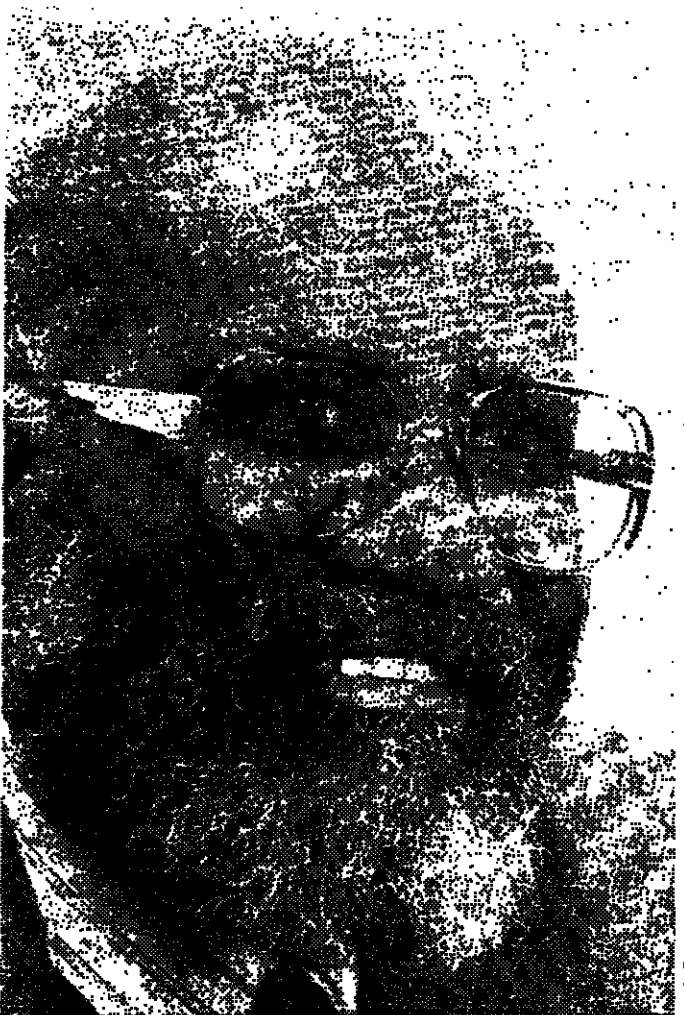
Meanwhile, the South African Broadcasting Corporation's Washington correspondent claimed in a news bulletin here that an important meeting on Namibia was to be held somewhere in Europe in the second week of June at which America would be represented. This information was attributed to unnamed US officials.

No confirmation of this report or comment on it could be obtained from American diplomatic sources in South Africa. There was also extreme secrecy here about Dr Crocker's movements and discussions. US Embassy officials said they were under instructions to give no information.

Dr Crocker was in Lusaka from last Friday to Monday and had talks with President Kenneth Kaunda, Mr Alexandre Rodrigues, the Angolan Interior Minister. A short communiqué said that Angola and America reaffirmed their continuing desire to "facilitate peaceful settlement in southern Africa."

President Kaunda told Dr Crocker that American insistence on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola was blocking progress towards Namibian independence. Dr Crocker replied that America did not want to bring "extraneous East-West questions into African situations" and was working for a future where there would be no need for foreign troops.

The Cuban issue was one of the factors which prevented agreement at the Lusaka conference at the beginning of the month in which Swapo, the guerrilla organization fighting for Namibia's independence,



Mr Toivo, the Swapo leader, setting out conditions for talks with Pretoria at a Brussels press conference.

and a delegation of Namibian political parties, took part, with South Africa and Zambia acting as co-chairmen.

The Americans were not invited to the conference, mainly, it is thought, because of their insistence on a Cuban withdrawal. Although South Africa has publicly supported, and still publicly supports, the American position, there is growing evidence that Pretoria might be prepared to grant independence to Namibia without a Cuban withdrawal if the terms were right.

Ideally, South Africa would like Swapo to be part of a "government of national unity" along with local political parties, most of which are regarded as "puppets", by the guerrilla organization. Failing that, it appears that Pretoria would settle for a

reduction of the supervisory role of the United Nations in a Namibia settlement. The UN is regarded here as implacably hostile to South Africa.

● BRUSSELS: Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo, a Swapo leader, yesterday laid down strict conditions for the resumption of talks between his movement and South Africa on the independence of Namibia (Reuters reports).

"We are prepared to meet them. But they must first commit themselves to a ceasefire and to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 435", Mr Toivo told reporters here.

Mr Toivo, a founding member of Swapo, was released in March from South Africa's Robben Island prison after serving 16 years of a 20-year sentence.



Lisbon welcome: Mr Botha (right) and Dr Soares inspect a guard of honour on the South African Prime Minister's arrival at Lisbon airport.

Botha begins his European tour in Lisbon

Lisbon (AP) - Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, was officially welcomed to Portugal yesterday in the first stop on the most extensive foreign tour taken by a South African leader in 36 years.

Mr Botha, who hopes to lessen South Africa's international isolation, was met at Portela airport by Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister and a military honour guard. The two Prime Ministers planned to talk at Dr Soares' official residence before an evening banquet in

Mr Botha's honour at a former royal palace in Sintra, near Lisbon.

They were expected to discuss progress on restarting operations at the Cahora Bassa dam in Mozambique. Portugal built and maintains a majority interest in the hydroelectric plant in its former colony, and South Africa receives 10 per cent of its electrical energy needs from the project.

Mr Botha was expected to thank the Portuguese for diplomatic support that led to a non-aggression accord between South Africa and Marxist-

ruled Mozambique on March 16. "We will tell the world of the stability being created in the subcontinent," he said before leaving Johannesburg.

He is travelling with his Foreign Minister, Mr R. F. Botha. They are not related. Other stops include Switzerland, Britain, Belgium, West Germany, Austria, possibly Italy, and France, where President François Mitterrand has refused to meet Mr Botha.

● Visit defended: In answer to protests over the visit, Portuguese diplomatic sources were quoted as saying: "The Govern-

ment cannot callously and irresponsibly forget the 600,000 Portuguese who live and work in South Africa."

(Our Correspondent writes.) They added: "Portugal has always condemned the policy of apartheid, but it also notes the steps taken recently by South Africa to establish peace."

Portugal has played an active role in negotiations between its former territories and South Africa. It is anxious to see peace and stability in the region so that Europeans, Americans and Japanese will feel safe to invest there.

US envoy causes row in Ottawa

From John Best, Ottawa

The US Ambassador to Canada, Mr Paul Robinson, has stirred some latent sensitivities here by suggesting that the next Canadian Government will tone down nationalistic policies that the Reagan Administration heartily dislikes.

Canada's External Affairs Minister, Mr Allan Rock, defended the outspoken ambassador against enraged attacks by a few MPs in the House of Commons, arguing the Mr Robinson's remarks were "no big deal".

But later, outside the House, Mr Robinson administered his own slap on the wrist, saying that it might be "questionable" whether an ambassador should get into the business of predicting what policies a future Canadian Prime Minister would follow.

Mr Robinson, who has frequently raised hackles here by criticizing Canada's defence effort, set off the latest upheaval when he told the Ottawa *Citizen* that the only practical choices as next Prime Minister of Canada were Mr Brian Mulroney, Mr John Turner and Mr Jean Chrétien.

Mr Mulroney is leader of the Progressive Conservative official Opposition, while Mr Turner and Mr Chrétien are front-runners for leadership of the Liberal Party.

A successor to Mr Pierre Trudeau as Liberal leader and Prime Minister is to be chosen at a convention here on June 16. A federal election is expected to follow this summer.

"Both Mulroney and Turner have an honest understanding of business and the realities of this world having to do with other things ever so important, like defence; and the future of our relationship cannot help but improve with either one of those men or with Jean Chrétien," Mr Robinson was quoted as saying.

The words "business and the realities of this world" was an allusion to Canada's national energy programme, and its foreign investment review programme, both of which have been severely criticized by the United States.

Top communist acquitted by Khartoum court

By Our Foreign Staff

A Khartoum court has acquitted a leading Communist, Mrs Faia Ahmed Ibrahim, a university lecturer, who was charged under the emergency laws with insulting the Government after secret police dragged her off a London-bound plane 10 days ago.

Vigorously and publicly protesting against her arrest and the harsh state of emergency under which it was carried out, Mrs Faia Ahmed was taken before one of the capital's 12 emergency courts, which started operating on May 5.

Mrs Faia Ahmed is the widow of Shafic Ahmed el Sheikh, head of the trade union federation, who was sentenced to death after the short-lived coup against President

Kabul hit by food shortages

From Our Own Correspondent

Acute shortages of food, particularly sugar and meat, and fuel oils are afflicting the Afghanistan capital, Kabul, according to the official media there.

Newspapers have given prominence to a statement blaming the shortages on "highway robbery" by the mujahidin guerrillas, declaring that rebel activity is interfering with the supply of goods from the provinces.

The report details measures taken to control prices and prevent profiteering by shopkeepers. It discloses that 66 shop owners have been prosecuted for overcharging, during the first week of the present clamp down. The newspapers urge citizens to report cases of hoarding and speculation.

A main cause of the shortages, according to Western diplomats reporting in Delhi, has been the destruction of bridges on the highway north of Kabul to the border with the Soviet Union. Even when the bridges are repaired, the diplomats say, convoys are being subjected to increased mujahidin attacks.

Drivers have proved reluctant to face the journey because of the constant threat of attack, and the bonus of 10,000 afghanis (\$60) for one-way trip is soon to be doubled, the diplomats say.

Diplomats point out that while inflation has been a constant feature of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the regime has been reluctant to acknowledge the ability of the resistance to interrupt supplies. The current admissions, the diplomats say, "suggest the situation had deteriorated, and that unable to ignore the issue, the regime is trying to use it to turn the people against the resistance".

They also say that while it is generally stated that the Russians have been content to hold the big cities of the country and to keep the roads open between them, "they are having greater difficulty keeping the roads open than at any time since the invasion".

The diplomats also blame the meat shortage partly on the fact that bigger flocks of sheep have

been seized by government forces to stock military shops.

Diplomats here yesterday gave currency to Afghan reports that a senior Soviet general has been killed in the Panjshir Valley offensive.

The reports coincide with the obituary of General Semyon Romanov published recently in Moscow. He was said to have died while fulfilling his duties, a phrase often taken to mean killed on active service.

The general in the Afghan reports was said to have been inspecting the troops in action in the past.

The diplomats also report a number of rumours that other senior officers have also been killed, but they describe these rumours as much less detailed and less substantiated. They also say there is an unconfirmed report that a senior officer has been taken prisoner and that a number of Russians arrived in Kabul on May 10 to try to negotiate his release with Ahmed Shah Mahsood, the Tajik leader of the Panjshir Valley mujahidin.

Refugees damage Pakistan's ecology

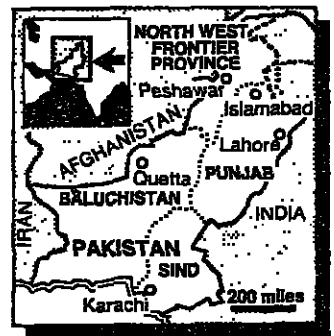
From Michael Hamlyn, Quetta

Khaki-coloured hills confine Quetta, bare and treeless, and the officer-sahib sadly confesses: "Our ecology has gone for a six." Baluchistan has 44 per cent of Pakistan's land area and five per cent of its population. It is arid and sandy but home to 700,000 Afghan refugees.

They search each day for firewood among the treeless hills. Where they find a tree, they cut it down, which has led to unseemly scenes between villagers and their visitors.

The authorities do what they can to mitigate the depredations. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees gives five gallons of paraffin a month to each family - though for some mathematical reason they only manage to get between two and four gallons. A pilot project is testing a more efficient wood stove for refugee cooking. All the same, the ecology is not going to recover easily, despite further UN tree-planting schemes.

The officer-sahib is one of a group of military men who run the refugees in Quetta. There is a brigadier, a couple of colonels and a handful of majors in the office. Like many military men



in this military dictatorship, they seem unhappy about talking to the press, but the officer-sahib does not mind telling me a few things, provided I do not quote him. Apart from the wood, the other big problems the refugees are causing are water and sanitation, he says.

There are virtually no rivers in Baluchistan. At best there are channels for the winter rain to run off which are dry the rest of the year. But there is underground water which has been regularly tapped by tube-wells.

As far as sanitation is concerned, when you put 700,000 people together and they have been used to wandering in the Afghan hills, they can cause a problem. Deep trench latrines are the answer, and the

refugees are being put to digging them and also to manufacturing the concrete slabs to cover them. But it is a slow process.

In fact, the refugees seem to be causing remarkably few problems to the local population, both here and further north in the frontier province, where there are said to be more than two million. A UN official said there were more refugees in Pakistan than anywhere else in the world - and fewer problems. It is not clear how many there are. The Pakistan Government says there are three million.

One reason for the apparent acceptance of the refugees by the Pakistanis is no doubt the identity of race, language and religion. Another is that there have been frequent similar waves of immigration across the Afghanistan border, most recently in the 1971 drought. But a third is the hardness, diligence and commercial enterprise of the refugees.

The construction and transport trades are likely to be dominated by Afghans before long, not only on the Northwest Frontier and Baluchistan but in cities in Punjab and Sindh too. Many shops and bazaar stalls are already run by Afghans, despite the fact that they are not allowed to own property here.

The paper said that Mr Arens' media adviser had later testified that he had been with Mr Arens near the bus and

Anglican priest detained in Zimbabwe

Harare - An Anglican priest in Matabeleland, the Rev Ozis Mkosana, aged 55, has been in detention for the past week on suspicion of recruiting anti-government guerrillas (Stephen Taylor writes).

He is the first clergyman to be arrested in connexion with the Matabeleland troubles, a tough churchmen of a number of denominations have been linked with guerrillas by the Zimbabwe Government. It is disclosing army brutality in the province.

Eritrean rebels claim victories

Paris (AFP) - Eritrean guerrillas killed 46 Ethiopian soldiers and captured 11 others in May 22-23 in attacks on the military posts near the town of Barentu, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said.

The rebels also claimed the Ethiopian Army massacred 36 civilians, including women and children, on April 18 in the town of Afabet.

Palestinian shot

Lamassol (Reuters) - A Palestinian, Abdullah el-Saadi, aged 36, was found shot dead here in the third attack on Arabs living in Cyprus over the past month. In Amman, Palestinian source said el-Saadi had belonged to the Syrian backed Saika guerrillas and had switched to the PLO.

Portugal killing

Loures, Portugal (Reuters) - Rogério Baptista de Cuni, aged 63, a retired industrialist, was shot dead outside his home near Lisbon. The left-wing guerrilla group, FP25, claim responsibility.

VW plant hit

Frankfurt (AP) - More than 300,000 metalworkers were on strike as Volkswagen began the latest car plant closure. West Germany's pending civil war over a 35-hour week. Negotiators resumed talks yesterday in Ludwigsburg.

Oslo acts

Oslo (AP) - The Norwegian Government decided to compulsory arbitration to end a strike by 500,000 state municipal employees who threatened to paralyse communications from midnight.

US storms

New York (AP) - Heavy rains swept across the east United States, causing the Oklahoma that caused 12 deaths in North Carolina. A girl drowned in flash-floods; about 100 people were driven from their homes.

Mudslide toll

Peking (AP) - More than people were killed or injured when a mudslide flooded copper mines and swept away houses in Dongchuan, Yunnan province, the New China News Agency reported.

Fire suspect

Taipei (AP) - A restaurant manager has been detained questioning in connection with a hotel fire in the Taipei capital which killed 19 people and injured 53 others.

Moscow gold

Moscow (AP) - SpS Senate leader, Seor Jose F. ricio de Carvajal, presented President Chernenko with Senate's gold medal in recognition of his outstanding services in defence of peace.

Fruitless fans

Rome (Reuters) - Football fans have been banned from the final of the Euro Cup final between Liverpool and Roma here today, security reasons. Match officials will be protected by a squad of black belt karate experts.

Africans game

Dar es Salaam (AP) - Tanzania will send a team of 22 athletes to the Los Angeles Olympics. Kenya Uganda have already said will compete.

Shamir calls Arab bus deaths a deviation

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, described the beating to death of two Arab bus hijackers by members of the security forces on April 13 as "a deviation".

At a meeting of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Security Committee in Jerusalem yesterday, which discussed the findings of the Zorea Commission, he said that the Army usually emerged with honours from encounters with terrorists. The commission of inquiry had been launched to prevent a recurrence of the events, and its findings were accepted by the Ministry of Defence, Mr Shamir said.

Opposition deputies protested that the commission's

complete report was shown only to a sub-committee, and the findings published by the Defence Ministry were reported to have stunted the security establishment.

Editorial writers yesterday sought an explanation for the events, some of them pointed accusing fingers at Lieutenant-General Raphael Eitan, the former Chief of Staff and now a candidate for Parliament on the hardline Hachiya ticket.

Davar accused him of "distorting ethical norms towards Arabs" and also hoped that it would be possible to reconcile his denunciation of the deaths of the hijackers with his earlier declaration after the incident that "terrorists must know that they will not come out alive from such an operation".

It said it was to be hoped that

the statement had not been made with the knowledge of what had already befallen the hijackers.

Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, said neither he nor the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Moshe Levi, had been at the site at the time and neither had known what had happened.

But the Tel Aviv tabloid *Hadashot* said yesterday its photographer had reported that Mr Arens had been standing beside him seconds before he took the picture of Naji Jama, one of the victims taken off the bus. He said it was inconceivable that the minister had not seen him.

The paper said that Mr Arens' media adviser had later testified that he had been with Mr Arens near the bus and

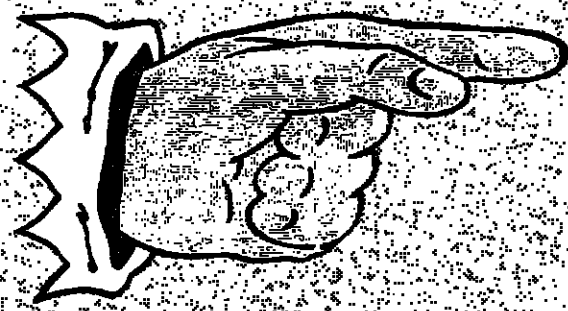
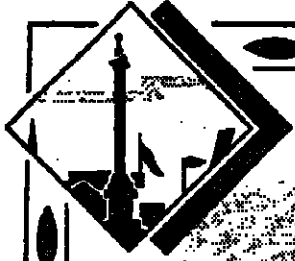
neither of them had seen conditions of the prisoner's removal.

● Anti-Arabs on trial: The 27 suspected members of the Jewish anti-Arab terror organization went on trial in Jerusalem yesterday.

Noam Yinnon, of Keshet the Golan Heights, was reported to have confessed to transporting 30 grenades alleged to be used to prepare for the booby-trapping of five buses in Jerusalem last month.

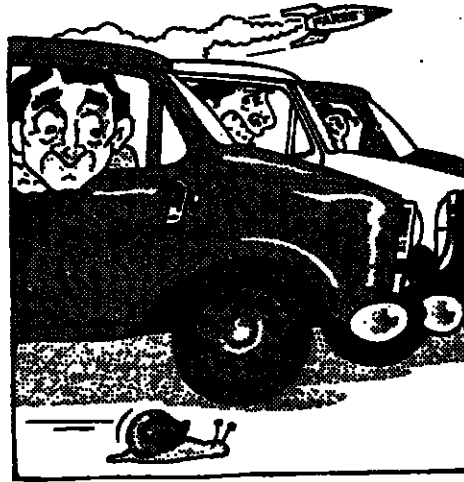
● LONDON: Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan urged EEC to take the initiative in Middle East peace process. It was imperative to keep process alive, he said, in address last night at the Davies Memorial Institute, International Studies (H. Stanhope writes).

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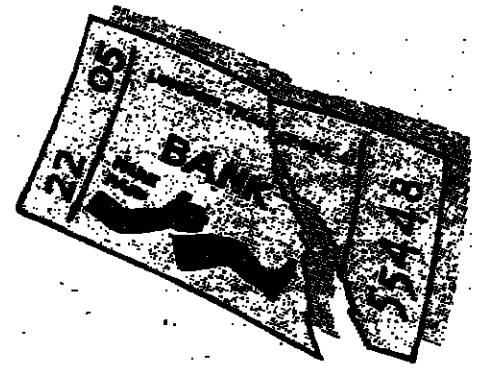
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Before 1981 LT was in a mess. Bus and tube services were due for the axe. Fares were rocketing. Roads were jammed with cars.



2

In 1981 the GLC's 'Fares Fair' chopped ticket prices by 32%. Until the scheme was outlawed and fares doubled.



6

Special bus lanes and computers to keep the GLC's new buses running smoothly.



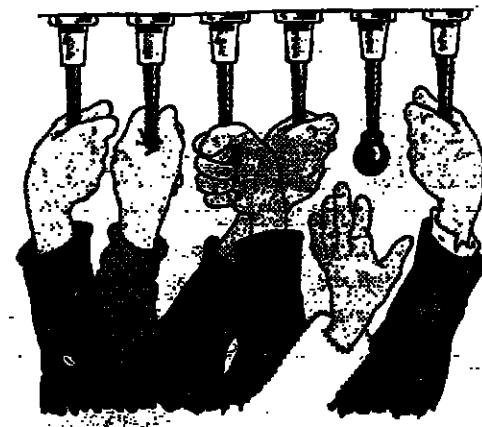
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New escalators and platforms to link LT and BR stations.



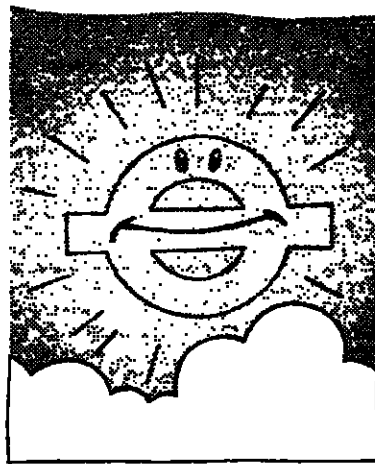
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Result? 16% more passengers now use buses and tubes. The first increase since the '50's.



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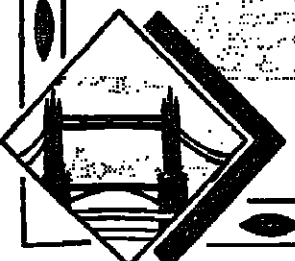
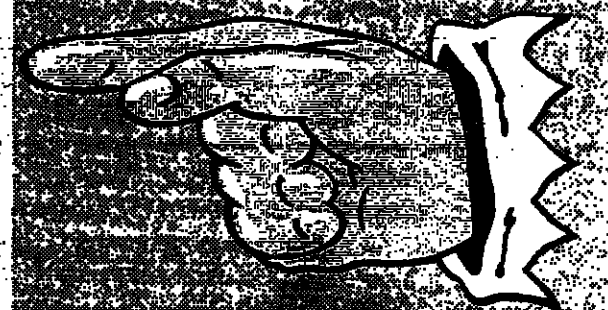
With the GLC's 3-year plan LT's future looks even brighter. Travelcards valid on BR... frozen fares... More bus and tube services.



13

BUT

The Government intend to take over and drastically slash the LT subsidy. And if that happens things will end up exactly where they started.

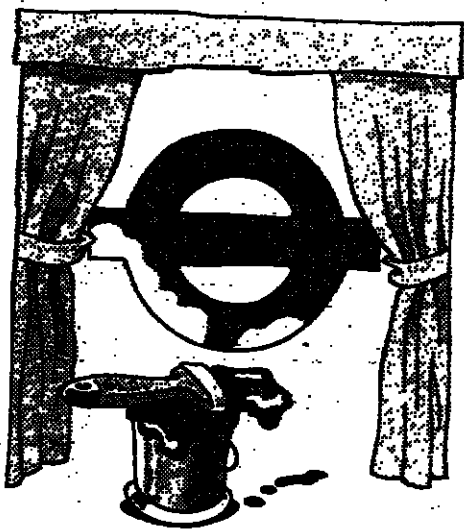


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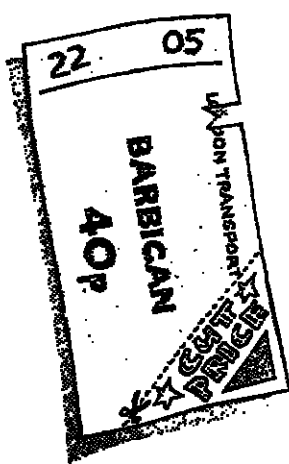
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Then, 2 years later, the GLC unveiled a fresh plan. LT's facelift began.



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Cheaper fares and the GLC Travelcard for starters.



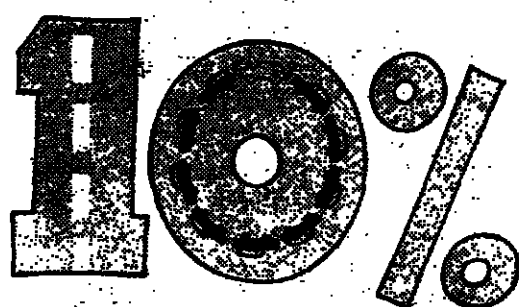
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New trains, ticket machines and indicator boards to cut tube delays and keep passengers informed.



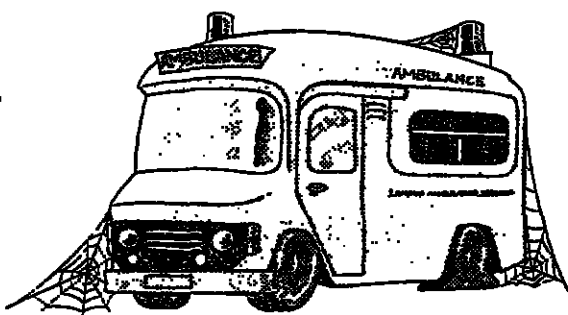
9

Commuter traffic has been reduced by 10%.



10

Road casualties are down by 3,000 a year.



11

The GLC's investment has paid off. Last year LT yielded a financial surplus of £36 million.



**IF THE GOVERNMENT
TAKES CONTROL OF
LONDON TRANSPORT,
IT'LL BE BACK
TO SQUARE ONE.**

Is there one good reason to take LT away from the GLC? Demand an answer. Write to your MP at the House of Commons.



SPECTRUM

Never mind the wavelength, feel the choice



May 30 1984. Rush-hour traffic is still tailing back on the A4, but for the drivers who are trapped in it, there is a little extra relief on the radio.

The old days when the VHF band contained Radios 2, 3, 4, BBC Radio London, Capital, LBC, and the faint tinnings of a distant commercial station, 210 in Reading, are long gone. Instead of the seven stations of decades ago, Londoners have more than 15 VHF stations to choose from.

All of the old ones are there, but they have been joined by a national commercial network, news-based, with some music and magazine material. Radio 1, the most popular British radio station of the 1980s, with around 14.2 per cent of the daily audience, now has its own stereo VHF spot, and does not share with Radio 2. Like other BBC local radio stations, Radio London still has the same name, but is radically changed. It carries *The Archers* and niterainment and specialist music programmes on jazz, folk, big bands and other areas which are currently on Radio 2.

Radio 2 has developed into a daytime middle-of-the-road station with typical news breaks, and a new 10R sequence in the early evenings which were once dedicated to specialist music. Radio 3 remains the same, based on classical music or a limited audience, and Radio 4, still a mixture of drama and current affairs, although some of the names, like *The Archers*, have been switched to local radio to beef

up their competition against the commercial stations. Capital and LBC are unchanged but still moaning about the arrival, four years previously, of ten community radio stations on the VHF waveband in the area once used for police and emergency services. Half of the community stations once operated as pirates during the 1980s, but applied for the round of new community licences announced by the government in 1986. They run on a shoestring, often using volunteer DJs. Using very low power transmitters, their coverage rarely goes beyond two London boroughs, where they make a reasonable living from small advertisers who like their music-based local style.

The rest are more specialized. One, run by jazz devotees, broadcasts round the clock with a staff of seven and never comes closer to rock than the last Herbie Hancock record.

Three ethnic radio stations, one devoted to Asian affairs, a second entirely in Greek, and the third, more catholic, but based on a West Indian management, have transmitters that can take their programmes to a wider audience covering most of Greater London. All the community stations have their own band of specialist listeners and advertisers. Few of the latter could afford to be on the old, larger commercial stations, even if they wanted to be.

Will this really be our radio future? We might get a few clues tonight when the BBC's managing director of radio, Richard Francis, and the Independent Broadcasting

Radio as we know it is set for radical change over the next 10 years.

David Hewson predicts the shape of things to come

FM STEREO				Radio London				YOUR RADIO DIAL IN 1990			
Radio 2				Radio 4				National Commercial			
								Country Radio 1			
								Hard Rock Classical Jackie			
Radio 3				LBC				Boulevard Europe			
								Westminster Star Oldies			
				Capital				Reggae Ragtime Laser			
88	90	92		94	96	98	100	102			MHz

Authority's head of radio, John Thompson - key figures in deciding radio's future - address a meeting of the Voice of the Listener, the new audience ginger group.

Changing the nature of the airwaves creates an odd reaction in the British national character. Television, which has a much larger audience, is expected to drop shows, change direction, and bob around the intellectual spectrum at will, and would be bitterly criticized if it failed to do so.

For a large section of the radio audience, the idea of anything other than rock-solid stability for decades is regarded with horror, as Francis, who has spent much of his time

denying reports that he wants to make Radio 4 into a news station, knows to his cost.

The truth is that whoever is at the helm of the BBC and commercial networks, change is on the way. The British radio dial of a decade hence, and the stations it can reach, will be radically different from that of today, even if no-one is quite sure how.

The evolution of the radio spectrum will take a decade, partly because it depends upon international decisions on the location of wavelengths by the World Administrative Radio Conference - due to meet in Geneva at the end of the

year. But it will, at least, be a little quicker than its predecessor changes. Commercial local radio has only just entered its second decade and, in places, still has a few teething problems. Radio 1, the government-ordered answer to the 24-hour pop prattle of the 1960s pirate stations, only came on air in 1967.

Past governments have been cautious towards the use of British airwaves which has not been matched abroad. It felt that there was little room for expansion into new forms of broadcasting, for which, in any case, there was little demand. But in the last five years, this opinion has been revised. With a little tinkering, such as shifting

VHF emergency services, room can be found for innovations.

The first will be to give Radio 1, Britain's most popular radio station, a stereo VHF spot of its own. At the same time, the IBA will look to creating the first national commercial station.

Beyond those two ventures lies the issue of community radio. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Office Minister of State, went out of his way to quell some of the disquiet of existing commercial stations last week by declaring that no first decision will be reached on community radio until after the WARC conference. If the Government does go ahead, as expected the existing 60-odd pirates in Britain will be allowed to apply, though no-one will be guaranteed a place, for a position in the new order. The Home Office hopes that by the time any applications are sought, the growth of the pirates which has so annoyed the IBA, will be over. New legislation, they argue, will make it much easier to put existing pirates out of business.

There is no shortage of people desperate to run community radio stations, and there seems to be a growing acceptance of their argument that room will exist on the airwaves to accommodate them without interfering with other broadcasting services.

Where will all these changes leave the BBC? Not behind in the race, that, at least, is certain.

The Corporation has been indulging in a bout of deep futurology for some time about its radio services which currently represent a wide

spectrum of broadcasting types: from the pure public service element of Radio 3, which attracts a dwindling audience of around 500,000 a day, to the daily pop diet of Radio 1, a network which could be transformed tomorrow into a successful commercial radio entity.

The BBC's real crisis lies in the regions, and a key element in the most recent BBC report on the subject by The Nineties Study Group published last March, was unusually frank about the depth of the problem. By 1990, the Corporation should have a chain of 38 local radio stations covering 90 to 95 per cent of the population in England. BBC local radio has traditionally performed extremely badly in the three main metropolitan areas, London, Manchester, and the West Midlands, where its patronage is 3.3 per cent, 4.6 per cent, and 2.2 per cent, respectively. Elsewhere, only eight stations have a daily patronage higher than their commercial competitor, though not all have competition.

The report suggests that the Corporation's interests lie in strengthening the local network by switching into it resources now with the national stations. The document is very consultative and is likely to be amended in the next few years.

But the BBC, which only 17 years ago controlled the only three legal radio networks in Britain, is as aware as everyone else that change is inevitable. It may not come as quickly as in television, but the signs are that the radio revolution will be much more fundamental than that initially planned for the domestic TV screen.

President Betancur's crusade against drug trafficking, violence and assassination has mobilized an army of opposition.

Geoffrey Matthews reports from Bogota

Colombia's bitter battle on drugs

Argentine tangos and Mexican mariachi music have long dominated the radio waves, and floors, cantinas, and urdels of Latin America, so that is John Lennon doing, tending in the centre of a public plaza in a small provincial city, like Armenia, in Colombia? A statue of course - but why here?

The statue is the work of one of Colombia's top sculptors who invariably quote their fees in thousands of dollars. But when Armenia's most famous local boy, Carlos Lehder, who commissioned the work, is ever short of a dollar, let alone a Colombian peso, he came to worship the Beatles when he was 15 in the mid 1960s he went to live in New York City. Then, as now, fast-talking, street-wise, audacious, and not without considerable charm, he was deported four years later.

Today, Lehder is 36 and the United States would like him back. For he is not only Colombia's most wanted fugitive, but also the man the United States most wants to extradite. President Betancur Cuatras is finally ready to oblige. Earlier this month he signed a long list of

extraordinary orders with "Carlos" at the top of the list.

The teenage Lehder was thrown out of the United States after being accused of trying to import 200 pounds of marijuana. That charge was never proved, but the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has since accumulated a bulging file of evidence that Lehder subsequently rose to become one of the top *capos* (thoos) in the Colombian marijuana and cocaine smuggling network.

Betancur's signing of the extradition orders against Lehder and other top *mafiosos* was the second shot in Colombia's suddenly explosive "drug war".

The opening shot came in April 30, when a chauffeur-driven limousine was sprayed with automatic fire by the pillion-passenger on a high-speed motorcycle. The target, a sitting-duck in the back seat - the racketeer's sworn enemy, Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, aged 38.

The assassination was regarded as an open act of war against the state by the Colombian *mafiosos*. Men like Lehder, who has indulged his fortune in numerous public works in Armenia and his own neo-fas-

cist political movement, or Pablo Escobar, of Medellin, the second city, and the racketeers' financial centre, who has imported plane loads of lions, tigers, elephants, giraffes and kangaroos for the most extravagant safari park in South America; or the Ochoa clan, of the Caribbean region, who buy and breed the finest *caballos de paso* (troting horses) to be found on the continent.

The *mafiosos* observed Enrique Santos Calderon, a columnist on the respected Bogota daily *El Tiempo*, seemed suddenly bent on "subverting and destabilizing the state. Unlike countries like Italy and the US where mafia strives to work within the institutions and avoid excessive provocations, the Colombian mafia... has launched the greatest challenge imaginable to the state apparatus".

Two days after the assassination, Betancur himself received a death threat which aides treated seriously. A crude paste-up of letters from newspaper headlines, it taunted: "Careful - it isn't over." Betancur flushed red with anger when he read it and then said firmly: "I await them."

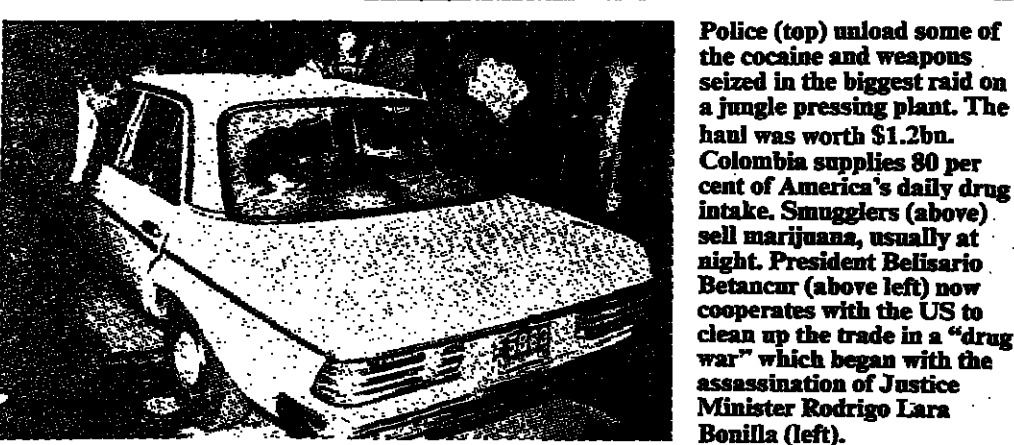
The trauma of political assassination is engraved on the Colombian consciousness. In 1948 the populist leader of the Liberal Party was murdered in Bogota, causing a decade of civil conflict between Liberals and Conservatives in which an estimated 300,000 were killed. The military staged a coup in 1953 but it took them five years to quell *La Violencia* as the conflict was aptly known.

The state of siege imposed by the armed forces in 1953 has, except for brief periods, been kept in force ever since by civilian rulers. Betancur, a Christian Democrat who won on the Conservative ticket in 1982, was determined to rule without repressive powers.

For a while it looked as though he might manage it. Opinion polls consistently showed him to be the most popular president in polling history, with widespread support for his bold amnesty offer to the nation's assorted communists and nationalist guerrilla groups, the most active in South America, while energetically pushing the Contadora group's peace efforts in Central America.

But in March a wave of ferocious guerrilla actions in southern Colombia forced Betancur to impose a state of siege in four departments. What triggered the violence appears to have been a successful raid, ordered by Lara, on a massive cocaine-processing plant deep in the jungles of Caqueta department. The plant had been guarded by guerrillas receiving protection money and sophisticated arms from the *narcotraffickers* under a marriage of convenience.

With the justice minister's



Police (top) unload some of the cocaine and weapons seized in the biggest raid on a jungle pressing plant. The haul was worth \$1.2bn. Colombia supplies 80 per cent of America's daily drug intake. Smugglers (above) sell marijuana, usually at night. President Betancur (above left) now cooperates with the US to clean up the trade in a "drug war" which began with the assassination of Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla (left).

Washington. "We are not corrupting you. It is you who are corrupting us." There was something in that then.

It was North American criminals, their know-how, and money, which first established the "Colombian connexion". But they underestimated their Colombian partners who soon cut them out. Indeed, today the DEA says that Colombians not only control the racket throughout South America but, as a result have taken over the action in much of the US.

Over the years, as the racket grew ever more powerful - currently a \$1.5bn a year business - both Colombians and their government chose to look the other way. A popular argument was that it was an American problem. If a vast demand for drugs did not exist in the US there would be no demand.

If US courts prosecuted drug users as well as traffickers, the racket could be smashed overnight.

One distinguished Colombian economist argued persuasively that marijuana but not cocaine should be legalized in both Colombia and the US to restore some kind of financial order to the chaos. But with Ronald Reagan in the White House that never looked feasible and anyway, increasingly the name of the game is cocaine.

Before Lara's killing, even Betancur, whose personal integrity was never questioned, seemed reluctant to tackle the racket head on. After the assassination he did a complete u-turn on a 1979 extradition

treaty with the US which he had pledged never to enforce. One wild theory popular in some Bogota bars because of its sweet logic is that the assassination was, of course, "a CIA plot" designed to force the government to start extraditing Lehder, Escobar and the rest to the US.

However, few doubt that the plot was hatched somewhere within the ranks of the *mafiosos*, who had become enraged by the contemptuous way Lara talked of them while exposing how "hot moneys" had permeated virtually every sector of national life from politics to professional soccer. For them it had become a personal matter of honour, an old score to settle before Lara left the country, and the risks did not matter.

Meanwhile, the big *capos* are lying low, calculating probably correctly that the current intense campaign against them will eventually die down. If not, they threaten to close down some 1,800 businesses in which they own the controlling interest, so further exacerbating chronic unemployment, and to step up arms and "narcodollars" to the guerrillas. On the black market in Bogota the dollar has soared an unprecedented 50 per cent above the official exchange rate.

Lehder and Escobar have disappeared to hide their time. The former has reportedly fled to Peru with, as always, a case-full of Beatles cassettes, while Escobar is hunting exotic animals in the dense jungles of the El Choco department bordering Panama.

however... Russell Davies

Chapter and verse to Strasbourg

The Italian novelist and critic Alberto Moravia, so Monday's *Times* informs us, is to stand as a communist candidate in the forthcoming Euro-elections.

What the item fails to mention is that many of our own famous writers are throwing their hats, gauntlets, wigs etc into the ring on this occasion. The following is an impartial selection from the leaflets and manifestos they have supplied to the electorate.

KINGSLEY AMIS (Conservative Really, But With Liberal Bits Candidate, South London): "I was standing in front of the mirror this morning doing my Saint-Sebastian-being-offered-a-very-tiny-Scotch-and-soda-face when it occurred to me, Christ, if this were France, which, from most points of view, we can be bloody grateful it isn't, the pubs would be open, or what pass for pubs, and we'd all be able to pile in there and order up a large mug of rendered-down anised balls, and the more I thought about that, and their women in particular, with that gargling voice they all have and all those perfumes with names like *Miss Pancy* and *Bonjour Richesse*, the more I thought about all that, the more I thought what a shifty shower the continentals have always been. But by the time I'd shaved and done my John-Gielgud-sitting-on-something-sharp face, which seems to come naturally as the aftershave goes on, it was too late to do any work so I wrote my drink article for *Wag* magazine. You can vote for all that if you like."

JAMES HERRIOT (End Feline Enteritis Now Candidate, Darroby and the Nicer Dales): "I knelt carefully down in the straw and blew gently into the old sow's ear. She stirred slightly and whinnied. Something was terribly wrong. Shining my torch into the hairy orifice, I saw the truth: foreign object, quite large and dark, made of cloth perhaps, or felt, had become lodged in the old girl's earhole, or auditorium as we veterinary surgeons call it. Silently, I beckoned to Monsieur Desgranges, and he came looming out of the shadow. Look at this, monsieur, I said gravely. 'It's a bit of a betel. Even in the flickering lamplight I could see him blush. Then, with a sudden jerk his arm round and, with a cry, he struck me full in the temple with a heavy bunch of onions. In the hospital, I awoke with the conviction that this sort of thing is going to happen more and more if we go into the Common

Market. Vote for me anyway, because there are plenty more stories where this one came from."

THOMAS HARDY (Pessimist, Wessex): "The grey smoke rises from the fire. Where old Tom's trousers burn And Tom, who did not 'scape the pyre, Reposes in an urn. His grief-mad wife stands smiling by. With John, his cross-eyed son: The darkling heavens gently cry To see the deed is done. Tom's three-legged dog, the aged Tray, Will soon lie 'neath yon tree. The wind that bears the smoke away Is whispering 'Vote for Me'."

AGATHA CHRISTIE (Fatalist, Dedham Vale): "I expect you're wondering why I've gathered you all here. Well, it's really very simple. Murder is always simple, isn't it? No. I'd be obliged if you didn't interrupt me - this is something I think you should know. All of you. But of course, one of you knows already. Is it perhaps you, Colonel Heinrich, with your monocle and your brush-cut chest-hair and your perpetual slice of Black Forest gateau? Or you, Signor Luigi, with your loud songs and your chianti bottle and your suitcase full of forged raffle tickets for the earthquake fund? Or perhaps it was you, Professor André, with your horse-drawn, sleek and unconvincing, chips? It could not, of course, have been M. Poirot, unless - AAGH! Vote Christie and learn the answer to the riddle of The Night of the Butter Mountain!"

A. A. MILNE (Ever So Independent, Pooh Corner): "How far to Europe, Christopher Robin?" "Terribly far, terribly far." "Is it a long way, Christopher Robin?" "Terribly far," said he. "What is a Europe, Christopher Robin?" "Sort of a tree, sort of a tree."

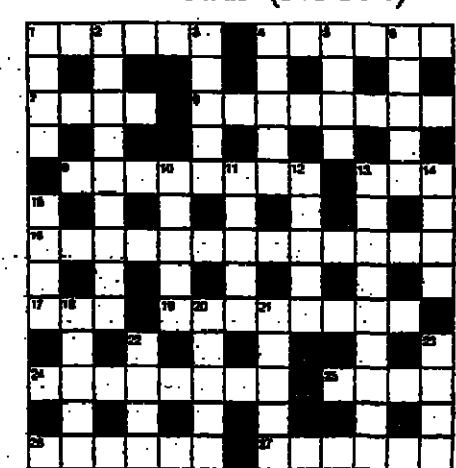
"What do they do there, Christopher Robin?" "Blowed if I know," said he. "Do they dance, round it, Christopher Robin?" "Only in May, only in May."

"Why do they bother, Christopher Robin?" "Give it a rest," said he. "Who will you vote for, Christopher Robin?" "Never you mind, never you mind."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 354)

- ACROSS
1 Soft-nosed bullet (6)
4 January (6)
7 Eyelid darkener (4)
8 Arab commandos (8)
9 Plunderer (8)
13 Liquid tub (3)
16 Repugnant (13)
17 Prince's title (1,1,1)
19 Shropshire native (8)
24 Voiced opposition (8)
25 New Zealander (4)
26 Stiffen (6)
27 Show clearly (6)

- DOWN
1 Ditch bank (4)
2 Indian prince (9)
3 Sicilian crime group (5)
4 Cowboy display (5)
5 Knock out (4)
6 Kingdom of Saba (5)
10 Wharves (5)



- SOLUTION TO No 353:
ACROSS: 1 Gallop 5 Troy 8 Aloft 9 Remnant 11 Examiner 13 Vias 15 Preponderance 17 Oath 18 Acid rest 21 Flannel 22 Viper 23 Step 24 Resile
DOWN: 2 Arouse 3 Lark 4 Perpendicular 5 Temp 6 Ovation 7 Waterproof 10 Trajectory 12 Idea 14 Brad 16 Extract 19 Expel 20 Sloop 22 Vias

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

THE FIFTH FORM RIVALS



The classic schoolgirl stories of bygone days are inching back into fashion after two decades in the doldrums.

The return of the plucky, sporting, boarding school heroine is the subject of an exhibition, Jolly Hockey Sticks, which opens today at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood. It is devoted to putting on view the schoolgirl in a good many of her more colourful incarnations.

The bulk of the exhibits - school stories from the 1880s to the present day - come from the Renier Collection, a vast assembly of children's books and related items donated to the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1970 and now accommodated at Neil House in Whitechapel.



Included in the collection is a good range of inspiring works with titles like *The Fifth Form Rivals* and *The Best Bat in the School*, all testifying to the taste for high jinks which overtook girls' fiction in the middle of the century. But by the mid-1960s these stories seemed all but defunct, with only one survivor from the past, Elinor Brent-Dyer, composing stories in the old mode. It was always this author's custom to satisfy the demand for alarming events, and one of her late *Chutpah* books contains a thunderstorm, two floods and a green dye which falls on someone's head.

Undoubtedly excitements such as these contributed to the stories' popularity. Enid Blyton, too, has never lacked a following for her tales of Malory Towers and St Clare's (the last published in 1951). But neither of these writers was at all attuned to progressive requirements in chil-

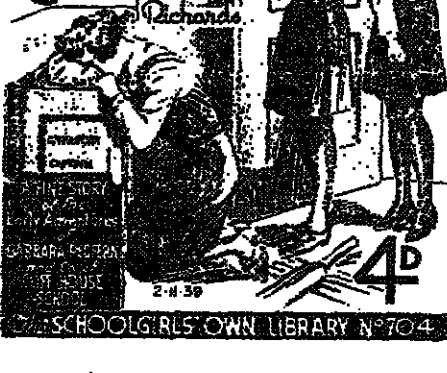
Schoolgirls' Own



THE BEST BAT IN THE SCHOOL



CLARA'S STRANGE CONDUCT



Jubilate! Bessie Bunter is bouncing back

dren's fiction. To reflect the conditions of ordinary insubstantial life had become something of a moral obligation.

Where did it all start? Gillian Avery, in *Childhood's Pattern*, reminds us that the term "schoolgirl" was current as early as 1801; but it wasn't until nearly a century later that it began to acquire the connotations it has today.

The Fortunes of Philippa, published in 1906, is significant: if Angela Brazil didn't exactly invent the genre, she certainly supplied its most striking effects. The Brazil schoolgirl, who came kitted out with "a pile of new books, a chest-expander and a hockey stick", was ready to welcome new experiences such as falling in a tub of mud and spoiling her clothes, and soon picked up the correct method of expressing herself. "Jubilate! What a frolicsome joke!" she exclaimed.

It took the liberating influence of the First World War to get the last trace of sedateness out of girls' books. It offered so many opportunities for exorbitant adventure and affecting betrayals of trust that the school story was never quite the same again.

Books and annuals were suddenly full of dramatic expulsions, semi-expulsions and very close shaves, with the sentence being rescinded only in the last few pages as the facts emerged.

Circumstances sometimes caused the heroine's behaviour to appear blacker than it was. We remember

the case of Agatha Wallcut, the fourth former sacked from Hill Crest for leading the entire school out to skate on a frozen meadow in defiance of an edict ordering them all to bed ("We do not mean to submit to this, frantic unfairness"). She was reprimanded, unlike awful Anita Lyon, justly ejected for depriving the school of its supper: she hid the frying pans for a prank on cook.

Girls in the works of Winifred Darch, Dorita Fairlie Bruce, Elsie Oxenham, Elinor Brent-Dyer and others were for ever being cut off (by the tide), or cut up (at someone's deplorable conduct); and an urgent topic of the day was the question of whether or not a character was cut out to make a topping head girl.

Schools in the 1920s became dreadfully prone to outbreaks of inappropriate behaviour, including snobbishness and smoking, and several societies were founded to put things right ("We can call ourselves the Secret Seven"). The honour of the school was a cherished concept, and no one was more fervently reviled than the person who failed to uphold it. (Sporting! You don't know what the word means.)

The weekly story papers of Northcliffe's Amalgamated Press flourished during the 1920s and 1930s, the opposition of parents and teachers notwithstanding. In fact, the exploits of the *School Friend* and *Schoolgirls' Own* contingent of characters are only slightly more flighty and improbable than schoolgirl adventures recounted elsewhere.

If an incipient romance gets into one of the stories, as sometimes happens, it is presented with the fullest circumspection: "I say, might I trot by the side of your bicycle as far as the gates of Cliff House School?" Lord Northcliffe, in the interests of decorum, even banned the word "rotten" from his girls' weeklies at one point.

Boarding schools were enclaves of social privilege (a fact not stressed in many of the traditional stories, where the benefits they offer are simply taken for granted). It took another world war to get the beginnings of a slightly more proletarian spirit into girls' school fiction, and in fact it wasn't until quite recently that the democratic impulse threatened to overwhelm the genre.

The return to favour of the classic story is well illustrated by the success of Ann Digby's "Trebizon" series, which began in 1978 and now includes eight titles. Among other things, these books show that a traditional framework isn't necessarily at odds with a present-day spirit; the heroine boards at single-sex Trebizon, for example, because her oil-expert father is working abroad - no longer in the outposts of Empire, but with the Saudis.

Other contemporary writers have had a good deal of fun with the doings of emphatic schoolgirls at mixed-sex schools. Jan Marks's Eileen (in a story called *Chutpah*) campaigns for women's rights in the comprehensive classroom, while

Gene Kemp's heroine in *The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler*, ends extravagantly by raising the school roof.

Peter Glidewell's stories of St Ursula's, first produced for BBC TV and now selling in book form, are almost indistinguishable from the real period piece; and Denise Deegan's school send-up, *Daisy Pulls It Off*, was voted London's top comedy last year. Publisher John Goodchild has recently revived all nine of Dorita Fairlie Bruce's "Dimsie" books, the first of which dates from the early 1920s. True, they have been subjected to discreet updating. Girls no longer "funk", but "chicken-out"; the Cambridge locals have become O and A-levels; and Dimsie's unfortunate mother now falls from grace because of shoplifting, instead of cheating at cards. But the mood of buoyancy remains the same.



Of course, many heroines of the past have simply faded away. We miss Madge Mindon, the musical genius of Morcorve School, strolling down to the nets, "cricket bat in hand... whistling a César Franck sonata"; and Diana Royston-Clarke, the Stormy Petrel of the Cliff House Fourth. Dimsie and Daisy are gamely carrying on, however. And those of us nostalgic for "hockey on the halfers" now have an entire exhibition to gratify our singular taste.

Patricia Craig and Mary Cadogan

Jolly Hockey Sticks, May 30-September 30, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Cambridge Heath Road, London E2.

Delightful company of green leaves

THE TIMES COOK

Shona Crawford Poole

Never mind the vitamins, taste the greens. Enjoy leaves for their own sake as well as your health's. Take spinach, a vegetable which has recovered successfully from the old-fashioned boil-it-to-rags school of cookery. No longer is it a khaki pap distinguishable from tinned baby food only by the strength of its seasoning. Spinach is a star.

And one of its star qualities, a surprisingly unsung virtue, is that it smells so much better than any member of the cabbage family while cooking. Then there is its handsome deep green colour, slightly iodine taste and when lightly cooked, its tender - not slithery - texture.

At this time of year, very young spinach leaves make good salads, especially if the distinctive taste of the greenstuff is complemented with a robust but not overpowering dressing.

Dressings made with nut oils, especially walnut, go well with spinach, but perhaps best of all is an olive oil and lemon juice dressing which is loaded with finely chopped fresh garlic. Older, tougher spinach (and also spring greens) can be cut in narrow ribbons and marinated for an hour or two in this dressing before serving.

Spinach always seems to be the most frequently ordered vegetable in Italian restaurants, and with ricotta, the bland, almost sweet curd cheese widely used in Italian cooking, makes a popular stuffing for a variety of pasta shapes. Spinach and ricotta mixtures flavoured with different combinations of herbs and spices make moist, summery stuffings for a variety of birds too. For quail, poussin, guinea fowl or small chickens insert the stuffing between the skin and breast meat.

The same stuffing also tastes and looks good as one of the layers in a ballotine or galantine of duck or chicken to be served hot or cold.

Spinach and ricotta stuffing
Quantity, see method
450g (1 lb) fresh spinach
15 g (½ oz) butter
1 shallot, finely chopped
225 g (8 oz) ricotta cheese
1 small egg, beaten
4 tablespoons finely chopped fresh coriander, parsley, or mixed herbs
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
Freshly grated nutmeg

Wash the spinach in several changes of cold water to remove all earth and grit. Remove any very coarse stems. Blanch the leaves for two minutes in a large pan of boiling water, refresh them under cold water to preserve the colour, and drain them well. To eliminate most of the

moisture from the spinach, wring it out with your hands or in a clean tea-cloth (the green staining washes out). Chop the spinach finely.

Melt the butter in a small pan and cook the chopped shallot in it until it is tender but not browned.

Combine the spinach, shallot, ricotta, and enough egg to make a stuffing which holds together, but is not wet. Stir in the parsley, coriander or mixed herbs, and salt, pepper and nutmeg to taste. The stuffing will keep for a day or so in the fridge.

This quantity is sufficient to stuff quail, six poussins, three or four guinea fowl, or two small chickens in the manner described.

Quail: brush with melted butter and roast in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 15 to 20 minutes, basting them once or twice.

At the same oven heat, poussin will take 40 to 50 minutes depending on their size. Guinea fowl and small chickens will need 50 to 70 minutes depending on their size, again at the same temperature.

Creamed spinach which still has plenty of texture to it, is good accompaniment to plainly roasted or grilled meat or poultry which has no other sauce or gravy with it. To accompany grilled fish I think I prefer a small pat of butter on spinach which has been lightly cooked, but not chopped.

Creamed spinach
Serves four
900g (2lbs) fresh spinach
30g (1oz) butter
3 tablespoons double cream
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Freshly roasted and crushed coriander seeds, or grated nutmeg to taste

Wash the spinach thoroughly. Tear off and discard any large stalks or discoloured leaves. Pack the spinach into a large pan with a well fitting lid - adding no more water. Cook the spinach on a low heat, holding on the lid and shaking the pan vigorously to move the leaves about, until the spinach is tender. Refresh it in cold water to fix the colour, then drain it well. Wring out as much moisture as possible, using your bare hands or a tea-cloth, and chop the spinach coarsely.

Melt the butter in the saucepan and stir in the spinach. Add the cream and seasonings and heat through.

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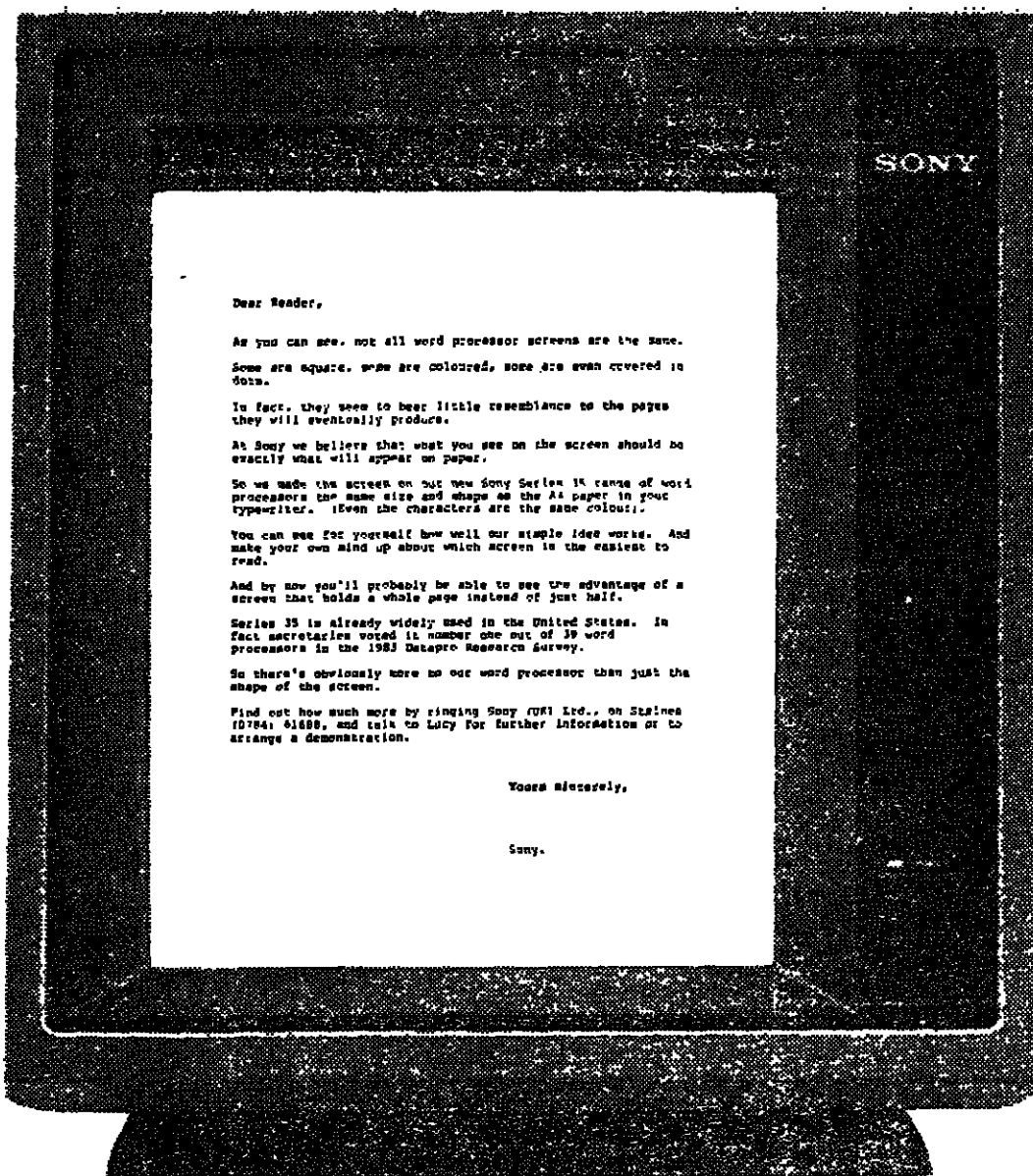
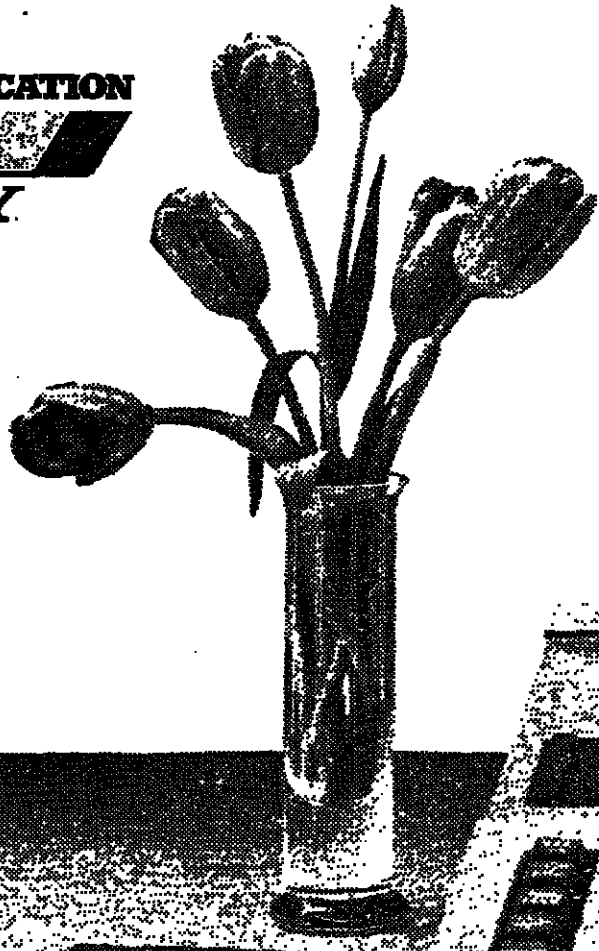
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THE TIMES DIARY

Coldingley Coventry

In a prison letter passed to PHS, gangland leader Charlie Richardson, who is due out in six weeks after serving 17 years, has refuted a newspaper report that he had a "chinwag" with the spy Michael Bettaney in Coldingley Prison. The *Guardian* report last week stated: "Mr M. Bettaney's regime at Coldingley has relaxed just the tiniest bit. The other day he had a bit of a chinwag with Richardson... who doubtless filled in on gaps in Mr Bettaney's knowledge of BOSS undercover operations." However, a letter just written by Richardson (Number 605339), passed to me by a friend of his, dispels such a notion: "... So you read it in *The Guardian* that the spy Bettaney is in the block here. Yes. Correct. 15-minute watch. More security than Hess. 5 years debriefing. 5 years more to forget it. That will be his lot for the next decade. If he stands up to it, Martin never, I hear Bettaney is the most dangerous prisoner, ever to have been in UK jails. No other con (convict) will ever see him. Let alone speak to him. Be plenty of briefcase visits for him. I shall think his lawyers will take his solitary confinement up at Strasbourg. They are taking the vetting of the jury to Strasbourg. I also sent a letter to Strasbourg on my jury being vetted and asked them to rule it unconstitutional..."

● After Frank Delaney's condemnation of *Top of the Irish-type* book lists as "coarse, vulgar and cheap," I hear that the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the *Australian Book Review* are to compile a list of the 10 greatest Australian works since the war. Nominations on a postage stamp, please.

Silver wraith

As Buckingham Palace refused to comment yesterday on reports that Prince Philip and Prince Charles have been using an outboard boat in an attempt to contact Lord Mountbatten, the Marchioness of Tavistock emerged from the supernatural closet. She tells me she has been in contact with a medium in her quest to recover the £5m worth of silver recently stolen from her Woburn Abbey home. The Marchioness says the medium, who spent some hours in a number of Woburn's rooms, has identified the size, sexes and ages of the gang, and has said it will take two years to recover the haul. "I can't say any more in case it tips off the robbers," she says.

BARRY FANTONI



"Apart from Johnny Francome's 'e' moult, who do you fancy?"

On his mettle

The rumoured fear and irredemption cabinet ministers have of "she who must be obeyed" has just been confirmed. Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, was asked at a Commons Select Committee on the £1bn spent on research and development, if he had sought a personal view from his leader. "I avoid discussing this with the Prime Minister," replied a sheepish Walker. "She has a science degree and I don't. I am told it brought the house down."

● St Paul's School trying to snuff out the odd polygamist among its old boys - or is it the ubiquitous Arab influence? An indignant O.B. has sent me a copy of the form designed to update the register. Under the marriage section, Old Paulines are asked to supply "Name(s) of wife (or wives) in full."

Yam-yam

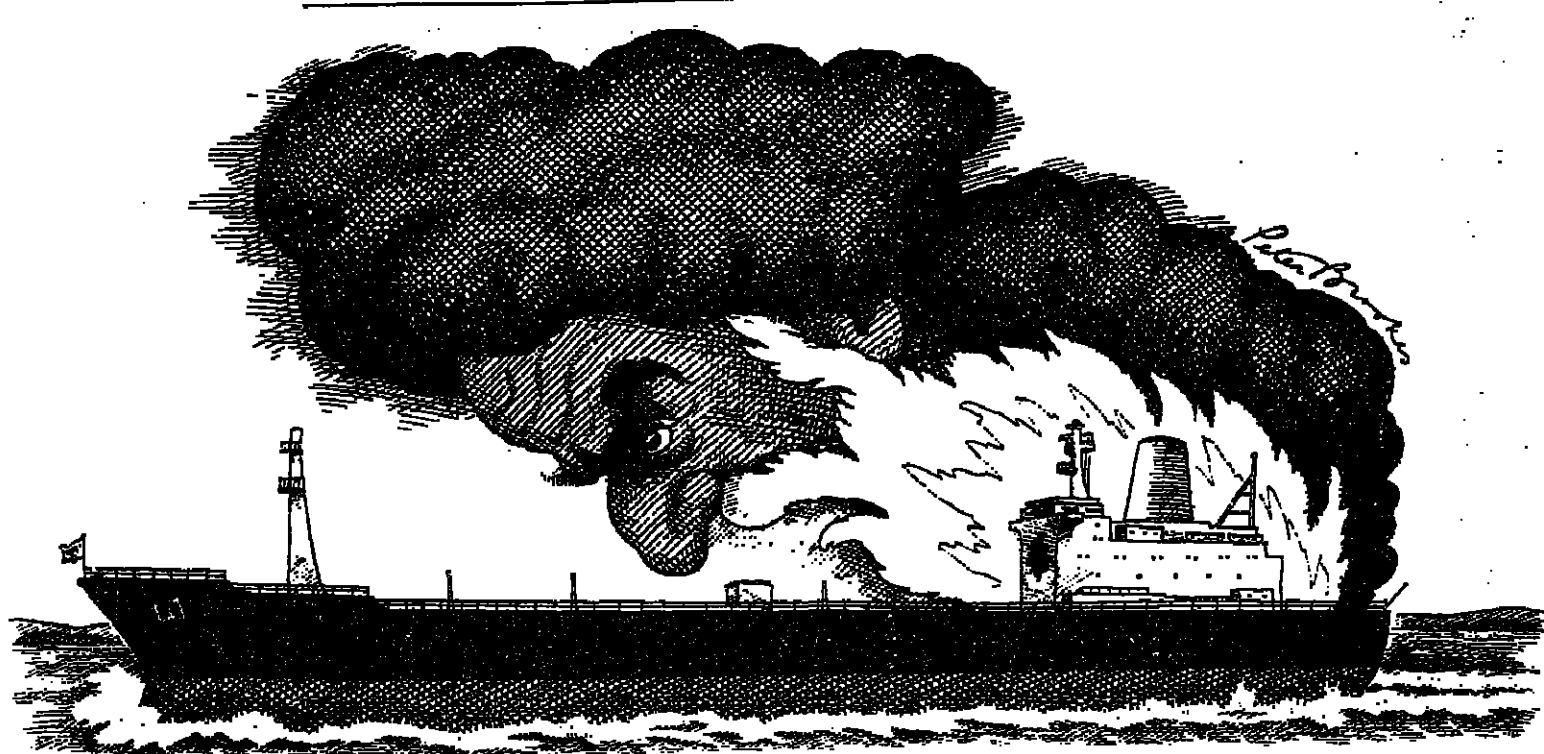
Far from a hostile reception, Lord Scarman has just returned to the Railton Road "frontline" to be greeted like a long-lost friend. He was there to go walkabout for a film, *Brixton Revisited*, to be shown on Channel 4 in September. So warm was the welcome, the Afro-Caribbean Club even invited him to join its management board, an invitation he accepted. Lord Scarman must be smacking his lips over the menu being prepared for his first club lunch - fried fish and yam and banana dumplings.

Third opinion

Stethoscopes are flying at Greenham Common. After my report on *Rage* - *Ratapany Against Greenham Encampments*, led by local retired GP Tom Gibson - 12 Oxford doctors and medical workers have got together to launch a counter-attack. They sent a long declaration to the *Newbury Weekly News* dissociating themselves from Dr Gibson. Another retired Newbury GP, Deborah Bradley-Moore, is unimpressed. In a letter she says: "Doctors know no more of nuclear policies than any other thinking people." Quite so.

PHS

Robert Fisk on the high stakes of policing the Gulf



Can Reagan really quench the flames?

Bahrain You can see the measure of Washington's involvement in the Gulf war just 20 miles out to sea from Qatar. Each evening, a clutch of tankers moves up through the dusk haze. Beside them is the thin grey shape of an American warship.

This unofficial and unacknowledged protection is given no publicity in Washington, nor among the Arab states along the southern shore of the Gulf - coinciding with their own desire to keep American ships off the horizon - but it exists none the less.

Sometimes the escort is provided by the USS John Rodgers, a sleek, twin-funnelled missile cruiser that last defended American interests by bombarding the Chouf mountains of central Lebanon. At other times the USS Boone, a squat and rather cumbersome flat-topped missile carrier, comes up from the United Arab Emirates and rests by night at Bahrain. Anyone who approaches the warships by day will see a steel-helmeted US sailor emerge by the deck rail to man a fixed heavy machine gun. After all, these are dangerous waters the Americans are now charting.

As the Iranian and Iraqi armies prepare to enter another bloody round of fighting around the southern Iraqi city of Basra, however, President Reagan's expressed determination to stay out of the Gulf war looks ever more hopeless. American and British military instructors in the Gulf states simply do not believe that their wards are capable of serious opposition if the Iranians attack them.

Singer missiles may give Saudi Arabia some moral prestige within the defence committee of the Gulf Cooperation Council, but it will take months to train the Saudi army to use the new weapons. The Omanis, with their British-trained navy, can field two powerful patrol craft fitted with Exocet missiles, but the Arab states of the southern Gulf could make only a lamentable attempt to defend their shipping lanes if the Iranians decided to redeploy their air strikes against oil tankers.

It is for this reason that the Americans are talking more and more about airborne "support" for the Saudi air force - a euphemism that at present covers AWACS reconnaissance aircraft and the possibility of KC-135 refuelling tankers for the Saudis' F-15 jets - but which could in future include US fighter patrols over the southern half of the Gulf from the USS Kittyhawk and the Seventh Fleet in the Indian Ocean.

Rome The writing on the wall behind the unseasonably rain-beaten market stalls states emphatically: "Longo must go."

The reference is to Pietro Longo, Italian Minister for the Budget and leader of the Social Democrats, for his alleged involvement in the "Propaganda Two" masonic lodge, whose members included Michele Sindona, the imprisoned former financial adviser to the Vatican, and Roberto Calvi, the banker who was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge.

The P2 scandal has already brought down one government and ended the careers of a number of public figures. Now, as the Communists demand Longo's resignation, it could threaten Signor Bettino Craxi's coalition.

Earlier this month the press received leaked copies of a draft report by Signora Tina Anselmi, the Christian Democrat who chairs the parliamentary commission of inquiry into the P2 affair. It asserted that the lists of 962 supposed members of the banned lodge appeared to be substantially correct. Longo's name was on the lists, but he has always denied membership.

The lists were discovered in March 1981 after a search of the villa at Arezzo belonging to Licio Gelli, former venerable master of the P2 lodge and now, according to his son, hiding in South America after his escape from a Swiss prison last August on the eve of his extradition. According to the lists, membership of the lodge included the then head of the armed forces, the heads of the secret services, the editor at the time of the *Corriere della Sera*, Italy's best known newspaper as well as financiers and businessmen.

On May 10, after the Anselmi draft report appeared in the press, Longo and the two other Social Democrat ministers offered their resignations. They were refused.

Craxi was preparing for the national congress of his own Socialist Party, opening at Verona two days later, and there were rumours that the whole affair was a plot by the Christian Democrats to embarrass him at a time when he was looking forward to his triumphant appearance as the first socialist to lead an Italian government.

USAF cargo jets are already flying regularly into the airports of the Gulf states, carrying equipment so bulky that they have been forced to deploy their giant C-141 drop-wing transports. Royal Navy units still regularly put into Bahrain, but their visits - which only a couple of years ago were expatriate cocktail affairs - have now taken on a grim new significance.

The Americans believe that the British should support them in the Gulf. The British, with equally little publicity and even less enthusiasm, have been talking privately about the supply of missiles to the Gulf states - with or without military personnel to fire them - or perhaps even the stationing of an RAF squadron, presumably in Oman, if overt American intervention becomes inevitable.

All this would have to be presented to the world in terms of commitment. The Americans are committed to maintaining the Gulf sea lanes. They are committed, more or less, to the preservation of those whom President Reagan describes as "our Arab friends," a definition which no longer includes Lebanon but which very definitely embraces the conservative oil states of the Gulf peninsula.

If the Americans do become involved, then the Arab states will be portrayed as the innocent party in the dispute: the Iranians, inevitably, will be the enemy. Is it not their aircraft, their regime and ultimately their ideology that threatens the security of the area?

The trouble is that this is not quite what is happening. It was Iraq that started the Gulf war, and it was Iraq which first ordered its air force to attack oil tankers in the Gulf as they manoeuvred off the Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island.

In the autumn of 1980, when it seemed certain that Ayatollah Khomeini's regime would collapse in anarchy under the onslaught of the Iraqi army around Ahadad, the Arab states of the Gulf - those very nations which now seek UN censure of Iran for its air attacks on the shipping lanes - were enthusiastically

pouring billions of dollars into Iraq's war funds.

But Iran's Islamic revolution proved more powerful than Saddam Hussein's brutal dictatorship. The Gulf states are today stapling their hopes to the abortive war missions to Tehran and Riyadh undertaken by Syria - the one Arab country which can gain prestige from the whole war because it very shrewdly decided at the beginning that its Baathist enemies in Baghdad rather than Khomeini's mullahs might prove to be the losers.

The failure of the Gulf states to draw the same conclusion four years ago has now led to an almost schizophrenic policy that is as impossible to follow as it will be to justify in historical terms.

The Kuwaitis, who once denounced any proposed foreign intervention on Gulf soil, had by last November reached the conclusion that the defence of the Straits of Hormuz was the responsibility of the countries that benefited from it - in other words, the West. Last week, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, was being quoted in the Beirut newspaper *Al-Nahar* as saying that the Gulf was an "international" region in which he could not object to foreign intervention.

Then, three days ago, Kuwait's ambassador to Washington was warning against American involvement in the Gulf on the grounds that this might "prompt the Soviet Union to enter the area." This is a strange observation to come from Kuwait, the only Gulf state to permit a Soviet embassy in its capital and the country which had been hoping that Soviet goodwill might be used on behalf of the Gulf states at the UN Security Council.

The Saudis, on the other hand, are still fearful of any American presence in the Gulf. US bases on Gulf territory would run counter to the anti-Islamic crusade still ostentatiously carried on by the Gulf sheikdoms, while a prolonged American presence could quickly ignite the sort of fires that brought ruin upon both the Americans and

their client government in Lebanon. President Reagan's strategic cooperation agreement with Israel has not been forgotten in the Gulf - and it was Israel which added its own fuel to the Gulf war by supplying arms to Saddam Hussein's Iranian enemy.

Indeed, the superpowers, should they come into collision over the Gulf, will have helped to bring disaster upon themselves. The Soviets, after watching the destruction of the Tudeh Communist Party in Tehran, have been sending massive new tank shipments to the Iraqis. The Israelis have given considerable quantities of small arms and ammunition to the Iranians. So have the Syrians. The French supplied Exocet missiles to the Iraqis, while the North Koreans sold Soviet rifles to Iran.

The Americans have been quietly reestablishing their relations with Baghdad - building up a large "interest section" in the Belgian embassy there - at the very moment when Saddam Hussein most needs the moral support of a western power. At a time when the Iraqis were reported to be hanging deserters along the roadside outside Baghdad, George Bush, the American vice-president, was in Pakistan denouncing Iran's "oppressive regime".

The Americans are still hoping that intervention in the Gulf war whatever form it might take, will come after rather than before the November presidential elections. Such involvement, of course, would have its advantages for all. The conflict is a distraction from the Arab-Israeli dispute. The Israelis have watched the Arabs destroying themselves along the Iranian frontier, while Arab antagonism against Israel has assumed a secondary position in the Gulf.

An American military role in the region would further this process. It would also buttress Saddam Hussein, and temporarily at least, put some backbone into the Gulf states. It might help to rekindle Iranian support for a war that has taken so dreadful a toll in Iranian lives, just as the American presence in Lebanon re-awakened the animosity of the Shia Muslim militias after the war with Israel. The Soviets would be pleased to see the Americans plunging into a new potential fiasco.

For a few months, American military personnel in the Gulf region, alongside the French and perhaps the British - the old allies of the Beirut multinational force - might allow Mr Reagan to "stand tall" again. After that, the "forgotten war" in the Gulf might turn out to be the one Middle East conflict that the world will always remember.

point most people, including the prime minister, felt that strains among political friends had gone far enough.

Yet there is a widespread feeling that his presence will last and that his party is the movement of the future. His decisiveness and frankness are therefore seen by many as a strength, and even the persistent cartoons which show him in a black shirt posing as a new Mussolini seem to do him no harm. His close associates say that his brusque manner does not mean he is by nature authoritarian.

Even the communists admit that if he falls there is little practical alternative to another coalition alliance between the Socialists and Christian Democrats. This will be still more the case if the Socialists do, as they expect, in the European elections. Having been prime minister, Craxi could refuse to enter a coalition unless he was again the leader, even though his party is much smaller than the Christian Democrats. Any attempted understanding between Christian Democrats and Communists looks remote in the present state of East-West relations.

The Communists have nevertheless kept up their attacks on Craxi personally and on his government. Two months ago they organized a protest march of almost a million against his anti-inflation decree, while in parliament they used every form of obstruction permitted by the liberal regulations to prevent approval of the decree within the time limit. As a result, the decree had to be re-introduced and went through only after the government called two votes of confidence in 48 hours.

The Communists' tactics over the decree stiffened internal loyalties within the coalition. The Longo case is different. The Communist demand for his dismissal is unlikely to have the same effect, and it is always easier to attack an individual minister rather than a piece of legislation.

The unknown factor, however, and the most fascinating, is whether the public sees membership of P2 as something to be condemned out of hand. The final report of the Anselmi commission, due on July 15, could change general attitudes, but so far the electorate has shown no tendency to punish parties represented in the lodge or particularly reward those outside.

Peter Nichols

Robin Cook

Forget 1830, let's have an 18.30

At the weekend I found myself listening with no real excuse to a radio interview with a Ms Chrissie Hynde, whom I now know to be a pop singer who had the good sense to leave America and settle over here. When invited to explain why she had found Britain more attractive, high among her reasons was the following conundrum: "There was your mass transportation systems. I found I could travel anywhere. I felt like I was free."

Ms Hynde, it will be appreciated, was speaking of her arrival in the early 1970s as an impetuous art graduate, and her reliance on the mass transportation system has no doubt been blunted by commercial success. However, in the month when British Rail has made deep cuts into its off-peak Southern Region services, her refreshing enthusiasm should remind us of what we now are at risk of losing.

Three years ago British Rail produced a statement of its priorities and policies for the 1980s. The document was ebullient about the potential for a modern rail business if BR could secure enough investment to match changing demands. This optimism was balanced by a grim appreciation of the bleak outlook for the railways if that investment was not forthcoming.

"The watershed year is 1983. If major expenditure on replacement is not started by then, the inevitable consequence will be a rapid rundown of the whole rail system," it said. As both track and stock aged and cracked, "rail travel will become less predictable, less reliable, less saleable."

The Government's response was to commission the Serpell Report to devise defences against the rigorous logic of BR's case for more money, a case which backfired when Serpell's analysis proved painfully amateurish. Not even the Department of Transport was able to swallow a forecast profit of £10m in rail freight when it was accompanied by a proposed network in which no coalfield was linked by rail to a power station.

Undeterred by its failure to find a coherent case to support its prejudice, the Government docked a quarter of the public subsidy for the railways. At the same time, the Transport Secretary instructed BR to achieve "reliable, attractive and punctual services at acceptable fares". In the watershed year of 1983 investment was two fifths down on the level identified by the board as the essential minimum.

Yet rail remains the mode of transport best suited to provide mass transit at least social and environmental cost. Over the short

commuter sprints rail can handle the sudden surge of peak flows with least congestion. Over the longer inter-city hauls it provides greater comfort than any alternative.

It demands less land than any form of road transport, a point confirmed by the recent discovery that it is not possible to convert railways to busways by the primitive expedient of concreting over the tracks, as the buses require more space. Freight wagons do not sap our historic buildings and older bridges through the vibration caused by the road juggernauts, and trains still offer the safest method of travel available to the passenger at no danger to the pedestrian.

The perversity of British governments' failure to grasp this case for the railways is thrown into sharp relief when it is set against the manner in which our industrial competitors, and most Third World nations, are treasuring their rail networks. Sierra Leone is reported to be lifting more track than it is laying, but with that exception Britain's hostility to rail stands in embarrassing isolation. France is currently investing nearly three times as much as Britain in its network, and West Germany nearly six times as much.

Over the most recent six-year period Holland has virtually doubled its rail investment, and at one point Belgium, with one fifth of the track miles of Britain, was investing as much as Britain put into its entire network.

The journalist Richard Boston has attributed the idiosyncratic indifference of British government to its rail network to a conspiracy by politicians to avenge the shade of William Huskisson, former Colonial Secretary, who was run over at the opening of the Manchester-Liverpool line in 1825. This is not entirely convincing as a consistent and sustained strategy, whereas the reality has been the switchback of annual changes in policy objectives and financial targets.

It appears possible, however, that Mrs Thatcher has heard of the fate of Huskisson because, while Prime Minister, she has seldom gone anywhere near a railway line.

It is of course a free country. Mrs Thatcher is entitled to eschew rail travel if she wishes. Her government, however, is not entitled to so throttle the cash flow of British Rail that she cheats the rest of us of the freedom to choose rail travel. Or, indeed, to rob the next generation of American visitors of the liberating discovery that there can be life without the automobile.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston.

Digby Anderson

Good health to the dragon slayer

Who is to slay the dragon? For almost a year now, the left-wing councils have been arguing how it should be done. There is now no chance of the terrible Thatcher abandoning her power and retiring to a cliff-top near Eastbourne or wherever the monster myths of the left go to die. Whoever would free the mightily oppressed people must slay the dragon.

Much of the talk has been of alliances. Professor Eric Hobsbawm has urged the extreme left to abandon, temporarily, its ideological purity and make common cause with the moderate left against the monstrous evil of Thatcherism. Mr Frank Field has mused on cooperation between Labour and the Alliance. But the most improbable suggestion, made recently, is that "single issue politics" might provide the formula to break the Thatcher thrall.

Their supposed attraction is that they can unite support across the political spectrum because they are, or appear, unpolitical. An article on environmental issues in the current *Sociological Review* suggests that Mr Des Wilson will promote lead-free petrol more easily than shelter, the action group for the homeless, because it has a more neutral appeal, "as indeed do most subjects ostensibly medical". The campaigns for freedom of information and one-sided nuclear disarmament are further examples of movements which seek to unify support across the political divide.

A winning single issue deals, or appears to deal, in "facts", not political ideology. Its goal is something we all want: peace, truth, health. "We all" does not of course mean "all" but all good people. Single issues have their demons - a small selfish interest trying to prevent the achievement of what is clearly the public good. Thus the sociologists rehearse the formula that the lead-in-the-petrol oil companies want "profits at the expense of public health".

Mrs Thatcher is unlikely to be toppled by single issues, even under the seductive banner of health. But they offer a weapon to use against the true enemy, of which Thatcherism is merely a manifestation - capitalism. Better than any traditional, ad hoc denunciation of "capitalist exploitation" is an "expose" based on alleged scientific facts, showing how one industry or company is ruthlessly exterminating its workforce with the aid of forklift trucks or hay-balers, seducing defenceless consumers into heart disease with sweets and crisps, or inflicting pollution through personal hi-fi and polluting the environment in a reckless thirst for profit.

Companies which "avoid" charges of producing unhealthy products, unhealthy side-effects or unhealthy working conditions are not immune. Double-strength venom is reserved for advertisers

and packagers who promote "unhealthy" goods. And any company shamed into closure and consequent redundancy by such revelations will not escape the jeremiad either: correlations have been established between unemployment and ill-health.

The solutions are as congenial as the exposes: more state control, regulation and supervisory quangos. Thus we find a recent *Lancet* article talking wistfully of intervention to coerce consumers into buying what nutritionists think is good for them by "taxes, subsidies, tariffs, commodity agreements, direct price-fixing" and legal controls.

The dilemma is that there are genuine public health issues which ought to be researched, exposed and resolved. If the ideologues take over health issues, these will be the first casualties. "For God's sake", pleaded one scientist, "don't write about us in the same column as the loonies." The long-term management of nuclear waste, sewage outfall near beaches and hazardous waste tipping are genuine environmental problems. There is unhealthy eating, but if health issues are politicised, the genuine problems will be written off with the others as the ravings of sandal-shod, yoghurt-crazed, bicycling activists.

When is a health issue genuine? There are two tests. First, the ideologues manipulate a list of health concerns: they wield a list when "they want to emphasize its cumulative effect; it has to add up to an indictment of capitalism, 'profits at the expense of health'. But it must not be seen as a list of options which would elicit the response: 'We obviously can't have the government intervening on all these issues; there is such a thing as a reasonable risk and the responsibility of the customer; only a few justify state intervention.' That is why each case is presented singly.

Secondly, a manipulated health issue will excite socialist melodrama. The villain will be private-sector profits. No mention will be made of health and environmental problems in collectivist economies. The hero will be state intervention. No mention will be made of American research which suggests that extending private "property rights" over stretches of rivers may introduce incentives to reduce environmental damage. The victim will be the innocent consumer or worker. Occasionally it will be admitted that some consumers buy unhealthy goods of their own choice; otherwise they are bewitched by labels and commercials.

Finally, little attention will be paid to costs of intervening to make products working conditions healthier. This is the clearest sign of politicians, the stale whiff of irresponsible utopianism.

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit.

Why another Italian government could fall to P2



Longo (left): continued denials even though his name was on the lists. Craxi: already vulnerable, but many believe he will be hard to shift.

parliament and representing virtually all shades of opinion, meanwhile expressed unanimous support for Signora Anselmi.

In her report, Signora Anselmi links plotting within P2 with both right and left-wing terrorism. This view was supported last week by Rinaldo Ossola, the Christian Democrat deputy prime minister - whose own government fell in June 1981 after the discovery of the P2 lists - who connected the lodge with the kidnapping and murder in 1978 of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader.

The Longo affair is also important for its possible effect on Craxi's five-party coalition, which has been in office since August and approaching its average term of post-war Italian governments. Even pro-Longo, there were suggestions that it would not long survive the European elections in mid-June.

One reason is Craxi's methods. Unlike most Italian politicians he is totally direct. Before becoming prime minister he had had no direct

experience of government of any kind.

On several occasions he has expressed his impatience with parliament - a view also implicit in his statements on the Anselmi report. He is wittingly anti-communist, and there can have been few occasions since the war when the personal relations between the prime minister and the leader of the Communist Party - Italy's second largest - were so bad. He does not seek to be loved and in no way enjoys the popularity of his immediate predecessor, Giovanni Spadolini, the Republican leader who legislated the dissolution of P2.

Signor Longo nevertheless continued his attacks on his critics, calling into question alliances at local government level with the Communists. The Social Democrat newspaper *L'Unità* publicly threatened to raise an alleged early sympathy for fascism on the part of Giovanni Spadolini. The Republican leader rejected the move as "a Mafia-style menace", and at this



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FRIENDS BUT NOT ALLIES

Mr Ronald Reagan's homing visit to Ireland next weekend may not be the cloudless occasion first thought of.

Ireland is proud of its sons, however remote, who make good in a spectacular way elsewhere. America has been copious in the supply of unofficial aid at every stage of Ireland's national struggle. The great republic is still regarded by the little republic as the land most abundant in freedom and opportunity. President Reagan himself is said to have said it will be like coming home. So the conditions looked right for a vastly publicized event from which one party would harvest a lot of Irish-American votes and the other a lot of American tourists.

But now official Dublin is more than a little apprehensive. It is not the obvious difficulty of presenting Ballyporeen in an historic light that worries them — if it can do it, it will have been done. It is rather that an articulate, determined, organized and probably small section of Irish opinion means to protest the visit, and especially the honours to be conferred on Mr Reagan, a doctorate of laws at the Galway college of the National University and an invitation to address both houses of parliament.

The grounds of protest are aspects of Mr Reagan's foreign and defence policies. The Irish church has strong missionary links with Central America and the Philippines. The sympathies of those in the field are with the peasantry and urban dispossessed and not with the regimes that the United States shores up. These views are shared back home. There is also an anti-nuclear movement in Ireland as elsewhere, though it has failed to interest the courts in blocking the arrival with the presidential party of the briefcase, locked to a human wrist, that allegedly contains the codes and instruments for ordering a nuclear bombardment.

Public demonstrations will be held. There is not expected to be serious disorder, let alone disorder beyond the capacity of the police to control. But enough will happen for the press and television, overpeopled and underfired with news, to pounce on it, to the detriment of the tourist board's image of Ireland of the Welcomes.

Dr FitzGerald has already warned of the danger in relation to tourism and US investment (Irish 4 billion, 350 factories, 37,000 jobs). He has appealed for

observance of the courtesies and has undertaken to express to the President the concern felt by many Irish people about aspects of US policy in Central America, and his government's concern (made known also to the Russians) that negotiations on intermediate and strategic nuclear forces be resumed.

The authors of one of the many letters critical of the visit to have been published in the *Irish Times* wrote, in a revealing phrase, "as residents of a non-aligned state". That is not exactly how ministers would choose to describe Irish neutrality. They prefer to emphasize that the neutrality is of a strictly military kind, compatible with ideological commitment. "Our place in the world is among the democracies whose values we share", especially the democracies of western Europe and the North Atlantic basin.

Irish neutrality is no impediment to membership of the European Community and participation in the side of it which goes under the name of European political cooperation, including the political aspects of external security. But, it is claimed, neither Ireland's interests nor those of others are best served by its membership of Nato or any other military alliance. Irish ministers are particularly wary of any tendency for the Community to develop a military dimension.

Neutrality in this modified form is rooted in the Irish state. The independent foreign policy it makes room for was essential to the experience of autonomy assumed by the Irish Free State in 1922. It was proved in the Second World War, guarded by the subtle tenacity of Eamon de Valera. In the expanding context of the postwar United Nations neutrality has given Ireland an international role amply proportionate to its size and resources. It offers the occasional luxury, as at the time of the Falklands war, of a high-minded snub to the ancestral foe and closest partner. In some manifestations the neutrality reaches into neutralism, as the Reagan controversy illustrates. According to a recent opinion poll 84 per cent of the people are wedded to it.

As President Reagan leaves Ireland for the Normandy beaches the reflection may occur to him that his compatriots who fought there in 1944 made their first landfall in Europe two years earlier in the six counties of Northern Ireland, not in the part

of the island whose hospitality he was tasting. De Valera was decidedly cool at the time about the arrival of foreign troops on separated Irish soil. In fact the Republic's cultivation of neutrality is one of the tendencies in its development that has contributed to the apartness of North and South, tendencies which Dr FitzGerald used to call partitionist in the days of his constitutional crusade.

It is with surprise therefore that one finds the report of the New Ireland Forum, which was dedicated to the search for bringing lasting peace and stability to Ireland by the only route known to nationalists, viz. political unification in some degree or other, had not a word to say about the reconciliation of the Republic's conception of its place in the world with that of Ulster unionists have in common with the rest of the United Kingdom.

The only time in the last sixty years that Irish unification has actually been on the tapis in the summer of 1940 when Churchill's war cabinet sought to buy Eire's entry into the war with a promise of unification made over the heads of the government of Northern Ireland) the exchange of neutrality for belligerency was a stumbling block. That of course was in the extremity of war. But even peace in Europe for nearly forty years cannot have so eroded the integrity of the Irish quarrel that what was vital then should be of no account today.

In fact fidelity to the alliance in which the territory of Northern Ireland is included is one, unmentioned, attribute of Ulster unionism for which, under the New Ireland rubric of mutual respect and acknowledgement, means of expression would have to be found. That is not in a unitary or federal state of all Ireland, since no state can run two incompatible sets of external relations as a matter of settled principle, however much that may sometimes somewhere be the appearance of practice.

In a confederation, Dr FitzGerald's personally favoured option, foreign relations must pass to the central organs of government, where the price of trying to satisfy both components would be paralysis. The matter would create difficulty even within the artificial model of joint authority as sketched by the Forum, a fact which sharpens the flavour of impracticality belonging to that option.

quently exercised their right of entry in the small hours of the night, making life intolerable for his family.

The reason for this treatment is almost certainly that Mr Lis is a proponent of dialogue with western peace movements and let it be known that he was involved in setting up an independent peace group in Czechoslovakia. He and those around him differ with other members of the Charter 77 human rights movement in that they regard the European Nuclear Disarmament movement as an ally, since they believe that peace, disarmament and the defence of human rights in Eastern Europe are part of one package. Mr Lis has received strong support from Mr E. P. Thompson, Mr Michael Foot and others, who have all written to Dr Husak, the president of Czechoslovakia.

Other members of Charter 77 are far more sceptical of the nuclear disarmers of the West, seeing them as dupes of the Soviet Union whose policies would weaken the West and thereby strengthen Soviet control over Eastern Europe. The deployment of more Soviet missiles in Eastern Europe has intensified this debate but it has also recruited new supporters for protest in Czechoslovakia. It seems to have intensified the insecurity of the regime. It might therefore be useful if the churchmen who talk to Mr Janku make it clear that they see the persecution of believers in the context of a wider suppression of human rights.

physics teacher was earning approximately £1,000 less than all other classes of physics employment (e.g. industry, central government, university etc), but when 60 years old the differential was over £4,000.

In this year's smaller random survey the median differential has increased (*Physics Bulletin*, April, 1984).

With such prospects is the shortage of graduate physics teachers surprising? According to Sir Keith's reasoning, it seems that I am in short supply as a physics teacher yet cannot demand more. I do not understand market forces.

Yours faithfully,
K. G. CAULKIN,
34 Ashfield,
Liverpool,
May 23.

Legal issues in 'Lithgow v Whitehall'

From Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, MP for Hexham (Conservative)

Sir, The important issues raised in the Attorney General's letters (May 24 and 25) and Mr Julian Haviland's admirable article in your columns (May 25) on the "Lithgow v Whitehall" case must not be allowed to sink into legal obscurity. Even if the Attorney General is justified — which I hope he is not — in his confidence that the Government will succeed in winning the argument before the European Court of Human Rights, that can not be the end of the matter.

Sir Michael Havers writes that the Government are not saying that an expropriation without compensation would be justifiable. That can hardly be regarded as a resounding declaration of Conservative principles, especially since it may be noted that the Convention does not, either expressly or by implication, guarantee a right to compensation in case of nationalisation of the property of the state's own nationals.

Nor is there any joy to be found in Sir Michael's further statement that it is not suggested that there is no grounds for criticism of the compensation actually paid. How could he, in face of all the statements made by Conservative front bench spokesmen when in opposition?

Not a single member of the present Government has ever denied that the terms of compensation were other than grossly unfair. As a neutral commentator Lord Goodman was moved to observe that the compensation provisions were "absolutely A1 in Wonderland".

In his letter of May 29, Sir Michael, the government's chief legal adviser, justifying confidentiality, judges the fact revealed in the Secretary to the Commission's public communiqué of February 1, 1983 — that the nub of the Government's present case is that there is no breach of the Convention because the nationalisation of the relevant companies on the terms laid down in the 1977 Act was a lawful measure which the Government of the time were entitled to take and in accordance with the international law requirement of "a prompt and effective compensation".

Meanwhile Parliament has been told that the difficulties of retrospective legislation are impossible to overcome. I have never believed this to be right or true. There is apparently no difficulty in conferring — if that is the right word — a

retrospective detriment such as a windfall tax on bank profits. How can there be a constitutional objection to a retrospective benefit to remedy a manifest injustice?

Mr Haviland does us all a service in emphasising the consequences for the future if the Government's arguments are upheld. This could not only affect the shares in nationalised industries which are about to be offered to the public but also a great many other companies which at various times the Socialists have threatened to nationalise.

Thus in 1981 it was calculated that on the basis of compensation given to the aircraft and shipbuilding industries, Beechams, with assets then estimated at £520m, would be offered £104m. Wimpeys would have had a likely compensation of £57.8m for net assets of £289m and Plesseys £63m for assets of £316m.

In other words, as long as the 1977 Act precedent is upheld British shareholders of industries which a future Labour Government might appropriate could expect to receive less than one-quarter of the real value of their holdings, in the knowledge that a subsequent Conservative Government would do nothing about it.

The position would be clearer if the European Convention on Human Rights were incorporated into our domestic law. Article 13 of the Convention expressly requires that there should be a right to go before a national court before the ultimate appeal to Strasbourg. We alone of all the states who are parties to the Convention deny this right, presumably because when we acceded to it in 1953, as one of the last acts of the Churchill administration, we believed there would never be a breach of human rights in Britain.

As matters now stand we must await the European Court's decision, bearing in mind that if the Convention does not go far enough in protecting individual rights Parliament still has the sovereign power to act if it will.

In 1980 and 1981 over 150 back bench MPs signed early day motions seeking to remedy the situation. Let them, and others, not forget that in the ultimate event the crucial question may well be how far Parliament is prepared to subject itself to the rule of law.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY RIPPON,
House of Commons,
May 29.

The pain of the unborn child

From Dr Patrick W. Gill

Sir, Your editorial, "Life before birth" (May 24), contains a major scientific error when it suggests that the sixth week after fertilization is the point when awareness in its simplest form is established in the embryo and proceeds to indicate that "the six-week marker is thus a clear point to be included in any code of conduct".

It is a mistake to equate an anatomical nervous system, which begins to be formed at about six weeks, with the perception of pain or any other sensory phenomena, which are physiological events. These events do not require a formal anatomical nervous system to be perceived, as it is common scientific knowledge that even protozoa have sensory perception and will react to a painful stimulus.

René Leclerc — professor of surgery who was given the highest professional honour in France when he was elected Professor of Medicine at the Collège de France, Paris — explained this principle in these words: "Physical pain is not a simple affair of an impulse, travelling at a fixed rate along a nerve. It is the resultant of a conflict between a stimulus and the whole individual."

This describes exactly what the embryo feels when a painful stimulus is applied to it, as in research or experimental work. Yours sincerely,
PATRICK W. GILL,
Neath General Hospital,
Radiology Department,
Neath,
Glamorgan,
May 25.

to the eventual benefit of Majorcan and tourists alike? With the support — seeing how many of the tourists are British — of the British Government and of British members of the European Parliament?

One might hope also, that the enlightened moderate left government of Spain, under Sr Felipe Gonzalez, will tighten control of property development in Majorca, and encourage the conservation of its natural resources.

We were encouraged, while walking in the island's magnificent mountains, where the paths are marked by (to us) unknown associations of walkers, to happen upon something like a national park — the Son Moragues, north of Valldemossa, which has been owned by the state since 1979.

It might not be possible for the environment service of the European Commission to help in preserving Majorca's environment.

GLC's advertising

From the Leader of the Greater London Council

Sir, The Director of Aims of Industry complains (May 18) about what he refers to as the "blatant political advertising of the GLC". May I put the record straight.

Firstly, the advertisements to which he apparently objects were not party political. They informed people of the consequences of the abolition of the GLC and the cancellation of next year's GLC election — a matter of general public concern.

Secondly, the advertising is under

the control of an all-party committee at County Hall, and inconvenient though it is for Mr Ivens, Labour, Conservative and Alliance parties on the GLC are all opposed to the Government's abolition proposals. There are quite rightly stringent legal constraints on expenditure of council funds for party political purposes.

Thirdly, the Government itself spends millions of pounds on highly controversial advertising: £22m on the sale of public assets alone. Nationalised industries including British Rail and the National Coal Board think nothing of spending hundreds of thousands of pounds in public advertising designed to

deter their employees from taking industrial action. Has Mr Ivens complained about this use of taxpayers' money?

We may be forgiven for thinking that it has been the effectiveness of the GLC campaign which has secured the support of the vast majority of Londoners behind retaining the council which has aroused Mr Ivens's concern, rather than the use to which taxpayers' money has quite properly been put.

Yours faithfully,
KEN LIVINGSTONE, Leader,
Greater London Council,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1,
May 24.

Press 'privilege' and the police Bill

From Mr Frank Rogers

Sir, The House of Commons has now passed the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, complete with an exemption for "journalism" and "journalistic material" from the new powers of search and seizure which it confers on the police. The virtue of this exemption was fiercely argued during the Bill's committee stage, and the discussion has continued among both print and broadcasting editors and journalists.

Before the Bill is considered in the House of Lords, I believe it is of great importance to explain why, during this discussion, the great weight of journalistic opinion, after initial ambivalence, has swung strongly against the exemption which the Bill provides. Contrary to what many people might expect, neither journalists nor editors want the privilege they are now being offered.

Not least among our objections to the "privilege" offered in the police Bill is the precedent it sets for a possible withdrawal of privilege — indeed of an ordinary citizen's rights — under some future government.

The particular terms of the police Bill reveal the danger inherent in this, even while making a sincere attempt to protect "journalistic interests". The protection is offered to "material acquired or created for the purpose of journalism". This material is limited to "journalistic material", the possession of a person who acquired or created it for the purposes of journalism.

If these words stand, the courts will quickly be obliged to define what "journalism" is — and, perhaps more importantly, what "journalism" is not. They will be tempted to make a distinction between those who are "journalists" and those who are not. Yet journalism and journalism are terms incapable of precise definition which satisfactorily distinguishes between them

and numerous other forms and agents of publication.

Potential anomalies are perhaps largest in the field of broadcasting, where the line is impossible to draw convincingly. Other possible anomalies and confusions were described by members of the standing committee. All would produce, out of this statute, not only the first beginnings of a statutory codification of what journalism is, but one shot through with complexity and contradiction.

An impressive body of editors and others now favours these arguments.

The National Union of Journalists is opposed to special protection for journalistic material. So are the editors or editorial directors of seven of the nine national dailies, six of the seven national Sundays, the editors-in-chief of Reuters and the Press Association, the Director-General of the BBC, the Editor of Independent Television News and senior executives of London Weekend Television, Granada Television and Channel Four TV; also the editors of 198 regional newspapers.

The Newspaper Society, representing provincial newspaper proprietors, and the Periodical Publishers Association are of the same mind.

In these circumstances, I can only hope that the House of Lords will be encouraged to perform its historic function of revising and improving Bills which come up from the Commons in the light of argument and experience.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK ROGERS
(Chairman of the National Union of Journalists, British Executive, International Press Institute),
East Midland Allied Press Ltd.,
Oundle Road,
Woodson,
Peterborough,
Cambridgeshire, May 21.

University costs

From Mr Stuart R. Bosworth

Sir, Lord Flowers, in his letter (May 16) about the work of the Jarratt committee, gives a wholly unexpected — perhaps novel — view of the role of university administration as your reader would normally understand that phrase.

Universities' administrations — as opposed to their whole panoply of governance (Senate, Council, faculties, heads of departments or their equivalents, whom the administration serves) — do not exist to spend 93 per cent of a university's income. They administer its spending, which is subtly and importantly different: a less powerful though equally onerous and responsible duty.

Of that 93 per cent by far the greatest part is in the effective control of academic bodies making academic decisions, an area from which the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals has successfully excluded the Jarratt committee. If its officers are to be believed, the initiatives that committee is taking in the areas of the maintenance of academic standards and other aspects of university activity are, in the eyes of many, long overdue as indeed are the commonsense measures which Professor Allen, of Oxford University (May 16), takes credit for (with others in his university).

The question that has to be asked is, why does it take cuts of the 1981 proportions, allied to Rayner-type enquiries, to induce some common sense into university decisions about expenditure and the avoidance of waste of whatever kind.

It is one of the glories and yet

most dangerous characteristics of the collective that represents the universities, and indeed of individual universities themselves, that there is a fierce resistance to all change not internally generated and approved — a resistance which, in the case of tenure, has effectively taken the important decisions out of the control of universities and placed them in the hands of outsiders, since statutory commissioners, if appointed, must exercise their duty in ways which will effectively diminish the abilities of the universities to arrange in detail their own affairs.

It is indeed tenure that raises the most pointed of questions. If universities chose to give appointments on contractual terms which made it impossible for them to adjust a new academic or financial reality, what obligation was there or could there be on anyone else to save them from the consequences of their own autonomous, carefully considered decisions?

If those decisions, claimed to be necessary on academic grounds, were taken without due regard for their long-term consequences in a variety of possible circumstances, what evidence is there to sustain the assertion that to exclude Sir Alex Jarratt from the academic decisions of universities is an eminently wise decision on the part of the Government and universities?

The views that I express are not necessarily those of my institution.

Yours sincerely,
STUART R. BOSWORTH,
(Registrar, Salford University),
2 Thoragrove Road,
Wilmoss,
Cheshire,
May 18.

Off pitch

From Mr Patrick Leigh Fermor

Sir, Major Loyd's mention in today's *Times* (May 22) of the ancient Persian word for a polo stick — *chaugan* or *chupaan* — opens an interesting linguistic sequence. When the game spread from Persia to the Byzantine empire, "to play polo" was hellenized into *tsikanizein* or *tsoukanizein*, the pologround, which was set up in the Hippodrome at Constantinople, became the *Tsoukanisterion*. Anna Comnena records that her father, the Emperor Alexios, a keen player, was laid up for some time after a nasty fall.

Possibly through his Crusader contemporaries, the Greek word stepped into French and English, dropping its sporting context and surviving in either language as *chicanery* and *chicanery*, no doubt from the devious zigzag manoeuvres to which the ponies were put.

For further ramifications we must refer to *Hobson Jobson*, the wonderful late nineteenth-century dictionary of English words of Far Eastern origin.

Your obedient servant,

PATRICK LEIGH FERMOR,
White's,
St James's, SW1,
May 22.

Splitting degrees

From Professor A. C. Rose-Innes

Sir, Mr Laxton, in his letter of May 23, argues that it is undesirable to split the second-class university degree into an upper and lower division. Perhaps, however, we should consider whether degrees should have classifications at all. Students are just people and, like all people, each student has strengths and weaknesses. So a new graduate will have shown greater strengths in some fields of study, and less strength in others; he will have shown more talent and interest in certain activities, but less talent and less interest elsewhere. Is it reasonable, therefore, to classify such a complex pattern by a single number?

Surely it would be academically more satisfactory, and more useful to prospective employers, if the student's performance were given as some sort of profile rather than a single classification embracing all facets. For example, instead of a unique classification, the marks obtained in the individual examination papers, project work etc, could be recorded on the degree certificate.

This is the system used in most countries of the world, the UK, or those whose university system is derived from Britain. When I was a tutor, selecting graduates for post-graduate work, I found a profile much more helpful than a single classification.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. ROSE-INNES,
The University of Manchester,
Institute of Science and Technology,
PO Box 88, Manchester.

Is and buts

From Mrs S. G. Webster

Sir, I received today my absentee ballot for the New Jersey primary election. It contains both Democrat and Republican ballot forms, and enjoins me in bold print: "Do not mark but one ballot."

Had I but votes enough and time...
Yours faithfully,
SUSAN WEBSTER,
31 Westleigh Avenue, SW15.

Teachers' pay claim

From Mr K. G. Caulkin

Sir, It is unthinking of Sir Keith Joseph to say that no one is leaving the profession, so the present offer of 4.5 per cent should be accepted. What is more pertinent is that in the sciences, especially physics, no one is entering the profession.

In 1981 a Royal Society/Institute of Physics report estimated 300 vacancies nationally for physics teachers and a further 1,500 "hidden" vacancies (i.e. physics posts filled by people not fully qualified to teach physics). The Government in 1982 set up a two-year pilot scheme of teacher training scholarships of £500 for a one-year postgraduate course followed by guaranteed jobs in England and

Wales to improve the situation, the scholarships being open to candidates possessing at least an upper second class honours degree in mathematics, physics or chemistry. What is inconsistent in Sir Keith's logic is that he is submitting to market forces here in order to attract and achieve a high standard of entry to the science teaching profession, yet cannot apply it to the present situation of science teachers within the schools. The shortage of graduate physics teachers is still severe and will not change substantially for a considerable time unless an attractive salary is paid for a professional job.

Evidence for this view is contained in the Institute of Physics's triennial salary scale remuneration survey of 1983 (*Physics Bulletin*, July 1983). Summarising the survey, up to the age of about 30 a graduate

House of Lords

Law Report May 30 1984

House of Lords

No common-law damages for debt delay

President of India v La Pintada Compania Navigacion SA
Before Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge, Lord Hailsham and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook.
[Speeches delivered May 24.]

The House of Lords upheld the rule laid down in *London Chatham & Dover Railway Co v South Eastern Railway Co* (1893) AC 429 that the common law did not award general damages for delay in the payment of a debt beyond the date when it was contractually due.

The Lords held that as Parliament had greatly reduced the hardship to creditors first by section 3 (1) of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934, where a debt remained unpaid until a judgment was obtained, and second, by section 35A of the Supreme Court Act 1981, where a debt was unpaid until proceedings had been initiated, notwithstanding that in respect of debts paid late but before proceedings had begun, justice remained, it was for Parliament to remove it.

The House of Lords allowed a "negative" appeal direct from the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division where on October 25, 1982 and July 1, 1983, Mr Justice Stanglton upheld an arbitrator's award to the respondent owners of compound interest in respect of freight and demurrage charges not paid by the appellant charterers until arbitration proceedings had been commenced.

Mr Nicholas Phillips, QC and Mr Peregrin Simon for the appellant charterers; Mr Mark Saville, QC and Mr Martin Moore-Bick for the owners.

LORD BRANDON said that the appeal was in substance an appeal against the Court of Appeal decision in *Telino-Impey v Gebir van Weelde Scheepvaartmaatschappij BV* (1981) QB 648, by which Mr Justice Stanglton was bound.

The main ground on which Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, would have allowed the appeal in *Telino-Impey*, that City of London arbitrators were free from the shackles which bound the High Court and so had power to award interest, simple or compound, on principal sums payable under their award or already paid before their award, was not supported by the other judges in the case or by the respondents in the present appeal.

Where parties referred a dispute to arbitration in England they impliedly agreed that the arbitration was to be conducted in all respects with the law of England unless, which seldom occurred, the agreement of reference provided otherwise.

The only common ratio of the majority in *Telino-Impey* was that as the claims were of such character as to be within the admiralty jurisdiction of the High Court, the umpire was entitled to give the parties the same remedies as the Admiralty Court, who had power to

award compound interest on debts payment of which had been made and accepted before judgment.

That was based on two misconceptions that an Admiralty Court then had power to award interest on debts already paid and that it had power to award compound interest in any case at all. It followed that the decision of the majority in *Telino-Impey* could not be supported on the grounds on which it was reached.

It followed that if the owners had confined themselves to seeking to support *Telino-Impey*, the charterers' appeal would be bound to succeed. However, the owners submitted for the first time in the House of Lords that the House should depart from its previous decision in the *London Chatham & Dover* case on the ground that it produced manifest injustice.

The owners urged the House, by departing from that case, to provide a common-law remedy that a creditor could recover damages, in the form of simple or compound interest, for a breach of contract by a debtor in failing to repay the principal sum for which he was liable in due time.

There were three cases in which the absence of any common law remedy for loss caused by late payment could arise. Case 1 was where a debt was paid late but before proceedings for recovery had begun. Case 2 was where the late payment was after the institution of proceedings but before their conclusion. Case 3 was where a debt remained unpaid until a money judgment was given.

The injustice to creditors in respect of case 3 had been remedied by section 3 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act

1934. In 1978 the Law Commission Report on Interest (Cmd 7229) had recommended alterations in the law to remove the injustice in cases 1 and 2.

By the insertion by the Administration of Justice Act 1982 of section 35A in the Supreme Court Act 1981, substantial effect was given to the Law Commission's recommendations in respect of case 2. The section also expressly preserved the prohibition against the award of anything but simple interest both in the case of courts and arbitrators.

Further, the Court of Appeal in *Wadsworth v Lydall* (1981) 1 WLR 598 had limited the scope of the *London Chatham & Dover* case by holding that it applied only to claims for interest by way of general damages and did not extend to claims for special damages.

Given that, and since the legislature had made the two interventions referred to, his Lordship was of the opinion that, for three main reasons, the departure sought by the respondents would not now be justified.

First, the greater part of the injustice to creditors had now been removed. Second, Parliament having given effect to some of the Law Commission recommendations but having made what appeared to be a policy decision not to give effect to a further recommendation, any decision of their Lordships giving effect to it by another route could be seen as an unjustifiable usurpation of the functions of Parliament.

Third, to depart from the *London Chatham & Dover* case in such a way as to give all creditors whose debts either remained unpaid or were paid late, whether before or

after action brought, a cause of action for interest by way of general damages for breach of contract would result in it being available to the creditor not only in case 1, but in cases 2 and 3 when he already had a statutory remedy. What was more, the new cause of action so applicable to cases 2 and 3 would be as of right, whereas the statutory remedy would remain discretionary only.

There would accordingly exist, in relation to cases 2 and 3, two parallel remedies, one as of right, the other discretionary, with the likelihood that creditors would come to rely mainly on the former. It was plain that Parliament had consistently regarded the award of interest on debts as a remedy to which creditors should not be entitled as of right, but only as a matter of discretion.

LORD ROSKILL, agreeing, said that the present state of the law in relation to case 1 placed the small creditor at grave disadvantage vis-à-vis his substantial and influential debtor.

The former might fear to offend the latter by instituting legal proceedings either swiftly or indeed at all and it was notorious that some substantial and influential debtors were not slow to take advantage of that financial strength, especially in times of financial stringency.

His Lordship hoped that a solution would be found promptly and the remaining injustice in that branch of the law finally removed.

LORD SCARMAN, agreeing, associated himself with Lord Roskill's comments.

LORD FRASER and Lord Bridge agreed.
Solicitors: Zaiwalla & Co; Richards Butler & Co.

Lawful benefit can be set off

Hyde v Emery
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Forbes.
[Judgment delivered May 21.]

When assessing the amount of compensation to be awarded to a defendant who had been working part-time and who had been overpaid unemployment benefit, it was proper for the court to take into account any supplementary benefit the defendant might have been entitled to had he claimed it, where that course was not at issue between the parties.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held allowing an appeal by the defendant, John Hyde, and refusing a compensation order made by the justices on the defendant's plea of guilty to three offences under section 146 (3) of the Social Security Act 1975 that for the purpose of obtaining unemployment benefit, he knowingly made

false representations, namely that he had not worked on any day since his last claim for benefit, whereas he had worked as coach driver.

Mr William R. Wood for the defendant; Mr David Latham for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the defendant had been signing various forms to the effect that he had not been working, whereas in fact he had been working as a part-time coach driver and had been in receipt of earnings ranging from £12 to £21 a week.

It was conceivable that the department and the defendant could agree upon a figure which was at the very least, one that the defendant owed to the department. On that basis, it was proper for the justices to take note of the agreement and make, on an uncomplicated basis, an order for compensation for that sum. The department would be left to recover any excess by way of civil

proceedings.

The process of making compensation orders should be a very simple one. Courts should not be invited, and if invited, should decline to make a compensation order on evidence out of which difficult questions of fact or law or both arose.

Justice should decline to make an order unless it was based on simple propositions which were agreed or were simple to resolve. There might be circumstances where it was perfectly proper for justices to take into account the fact that the defendant was entitled, if he had claimed it, to supplementary benefit. It was only proper to do that if there was no issue between the parties as to whether or not that course should be taken.

Mr Justice Forbes delivered a concurring judgment.
Solicitors: Bower Cotton & Bower for William Wright & Son, Dudley; DHSS Solicitor.

Charterer not bill of lading holder

Miramar Maritime Corporation v Holborn Oil Trading Ltd
Before Lord Diplock, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman.
[Speeches delivered March 24.]

Where in a bill of lading there was included a clause which purported to incorporate the terms of a specified charterparty, there was not any rule of construction that clauses in that charterparty which were directly germane to the shipment, carriage or delivery of goods and imposed obligations upon the "charterer" under that designation, were presumed to be incorporated in the bill of lading with the substitution of (where there was a charter clause) or inclusion in (where there was no charter clause), the designation "charterer", the designation "consignee of the cargo" or "bill of lading holder".

The House of Lords so held affirming a decision of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Dillon) on October 28, 1983 (1984) 1 Lloyd's Rep 142 who upheld a decision of Mr Justice Mustill who on March 18, 1983 (1983) 2 Lloyd's Rep 319 held that the charterers, SEA Petroleum Pte Ltd alone were liable for demurrage.

The owners, Miramar Maritime Corporation, chartered their vessel *Miramar* to the charterers on the terms of the Exonvoy 1969 standard form and provided that the total laytime in running hours should be 72 hours with demurrage at specified rate.

There was subsequently shipped in Singapore a cargo of high speed diesel oil for carriage to Trincomalee in Sri Lanka. The bill of lading was in the form stipulated for use in conjunction with the Exonvoy charter and provided that freight was payable as per charterparty.

It further had an incorporation clause which stated "This shipment is carried under and pursuant to the terms of the charter... and all the terms whatsoever of the said charter except the rate and payment of freight specified therein apply to and govern the rights of the parties concerned in this shipment".

When a substantial sum was due by way of demurrage under the charter, the owners demanded that that should be paid by the charterers and the consignees, Holborn Oil Trading Ltd. The consignees denied liability.

Mr John Steyn, QC and Mr Michael Collins for the owners; Mr A. G. S. Pollock, QC and Mr Charles Macdonald for the consignees.

LORD DIPLOCK said that the question was whether the provision in the bill of lading which purported to incorporate terms of the charterparty rendered the consignees, as holders of the bill of lading when the cargo was discharged, personally liable to the owners for demurrage payable

under the charterparty to the owners by the charterers who were in liquidation and insolvent.

The principal purpose of the parties in pursuing the appeal was to obtain an authoritative ruling on whether a bill of lading holder in the Exonvoy form annexed to a charterparty in the Exonvoy 1969 standard form, if he were not himself the charterer, was nevertheless personally liable to the shipowner for the full amount of demurrage payable by the charterer under the charterparty.

Exonvoy 1969 contemplated that, at charterer's option, there might be more than one loading port and more than one discharging port and that separate bills of lading might be issued, and must be issued if the charterer so requested for shipments forming parts of the complete cargo loaded, it might be, at different loading ports for carriage to different discharging ports.

The words in the Exonvoy bill of lading upon which the appeal turned were the same irrespective of whether it was issued in respect of a complete or a part of the cargo, received on board at the first or any subsequent loading port for carriage to and discharge at the last or any previous discharging port.

There must be ascribed to the words a meaning that would make good commercial sense if the Exonvoy bill of lading were issued in any of those situations, and not some meaning that imposed upon a transferee to whom the bill of lading for goods afloat was negotiated, a financial liability of unknown extent that no businessman in his senses would be willing to incur.

The owners argued for the manipulation of the words "charterer" in the demurrage clause so as to substitute for it "consignee" or "bill of lading holder" when that clause was incorporated into the Exonvoy bill of lading. They argued that the incorporation clause required one to treat the bill of lading as if it included the provisions contained

in the demurrage clause.

There were various combinations of circumstances affecting the using up of laytime and the actual accrual of liability to pay demurrage in which a bill of lading for some part of the cargo might be issued by the master on behalf of the owners or after having been issued might be negotiated by the holder of the bill.

Laytime might have been exhausted and the vessel might already be on demurrage before any cargo had been shipped at the first loading port, let alone subsequent loading ports if the charterparty gave an option for more than one.

After completion of loading of the full cargo any unused laytime would start running again on arrival at the first discharging port and would continue to run either until the cargo had been completely discharged there or at subsequent discharging ports, or the laytime was exhausted and liability for demurrage started to accrue.

So if the owners were right in their contention as to the construction of the incorporation clause, it had the effect that every consignee to whom a bill of lading covering any part of a cargo was negotiated, was not only accepting blindfold a potential liability to pay to the owners an unknown and wholly unpredictable sum for demurrage which might, unknown to him already have accrued or might subsequently accrue without any ability on his part to prevent it even though that sum might actually exceed the delivered value of the goods to which the bill of lading gave title.

No businessman who had not taken leave of his senses would intentionally enter into a contract which exposed him to a potential liability of that kind, and that in itself was an overwhelming reason for not indulging in verbal manipulation of the actual contractual words used in the charterparty to give them that effect when they were treated as incorporated in the bill of lading.

LORD SCARMAN, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon and Lord Brightman agreed.

Solicitors: Holman Fenwick & Willan; Waltons & Morse.

Setting Mareva record straight

Campbell Mussels and Others v Thompson and Another

The Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Griffiths) dismissed on May 24 an appeal by plaintiffs against Mr Justice Bingham's judgment on May 23 modifying a Mareva injunction made against the assets of the first defendant.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the whole appeal had been based ultimately on regarding what was said in *A v C* (No 2) (1981) QB 961 as being holy writ which limited the discretion of judges administering the Mareva jurisdiction.

What that case was said to decide was stated in paragraph 29/11F of the *Seventh Cumulative Supplement*

to the *Supreme Court Practice* 1982 to be: "Although the court had power to qualify a Mareva injunction in relation to assets which were subject to the injunction... such a qualification will not be made unless the defendant satisfied the court on material facts that he owed money to someone but also that he did not have any other assets available out of which that debt would be paid. In the absence of such evidence, the court would not permit the defendant to pay out of the assets subject to the injunction the legal costs likely to be incurred by them in the proceedings."

If that case did so decide, it decided it wrongly. Every case had to be dealt with on its own merits. The "fundamental purpose" of the Mareva injunction was stated in

A v C (No 2) quoting *Irish Minister to be Detained* Shipping Co SA (1981) QB 6570: "to prevent foreign parties from causing assets to be removed from the jurisdiction in order to avoid the risk of having to satisfy any judgment which may be entered against them in pending proceedings in this country..."

The Mareva jurisdiction had never been intended to allow a plaintiff to put himself in the position of being a secured creditor. A cross appeal was allowed to the event of making stated provision for meeting the first defendant's legal costs.

LORD JUSTICE GRIFFITHS' agreeing said that the note in the *Supplement* did not fairly represent the ratio in *A v C* (No 2).

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We've added a fifth gear, which greatly reduces engine speed when cruising.

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And the car's power steering makes getting in and out of tight spaces less of a wrench.

In fact, the car has been designed to handle predictably and smoothly in every situation. Thanks to the dual-circuit triangular-split braking system, the anti-roll bars and the well-balanced suspension.

Our thinking behind all this is fundamentally sound.

Since there's nothing uncomfortable or awkward to distract you, your attention will stay where it ought to be.

On the road.

VOLVO

A SPECIAL REPORT

Birmingham International Airport

West Midlands
air travel moves
into a new era
with the formal
opening today by
the Queen of a
£60m terminal

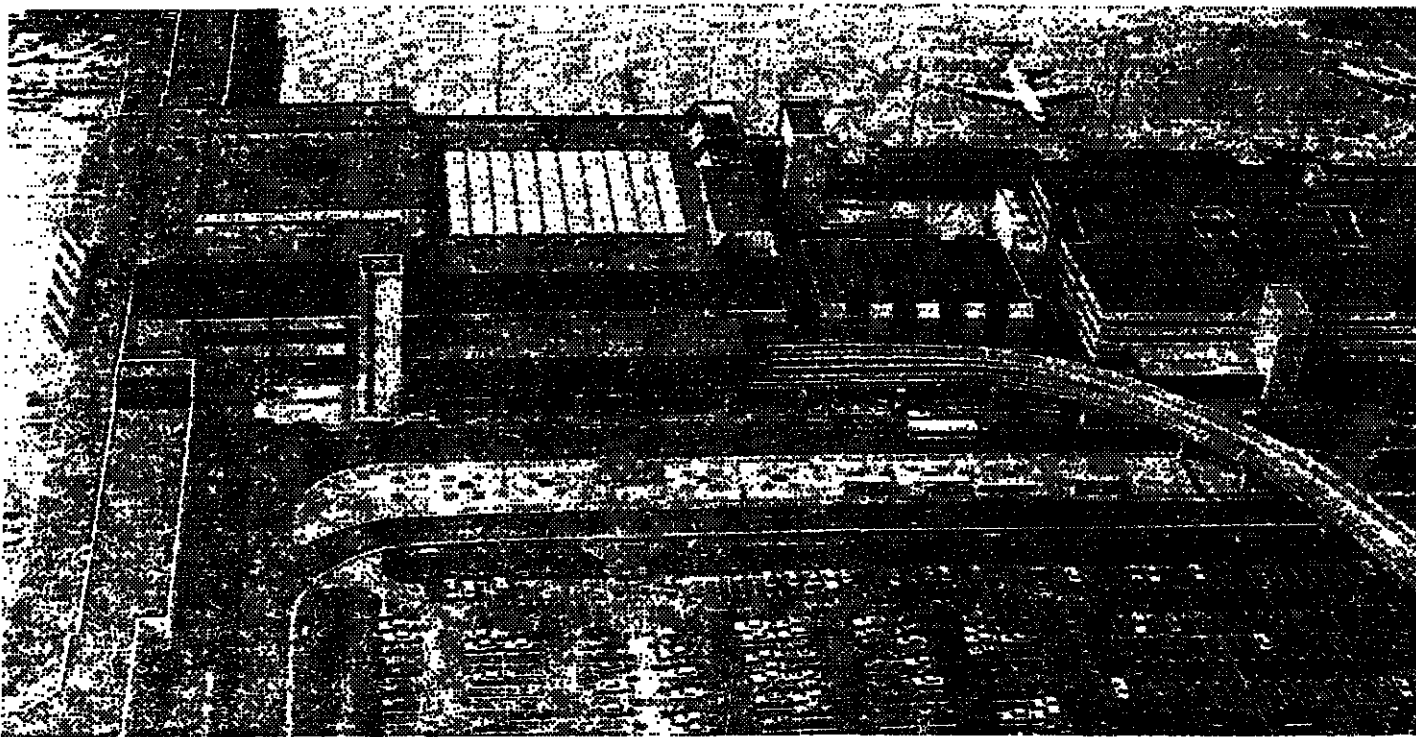
The position of Birmingham as one of Britain's premier centres of industry and commerce is considerably enhanced by the completion of a new international airport terminal and associated works, to be opened formally today by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The project, which has cost £60m, and which has provided up to 1,500 construction jobs since 1981, replaces the old terminal on the other side of the city airport, commissioned in 1939 at a cost of £350,000. In the intervening 45 years, the old terminal became badly out-moded and over-crowded, while doing little for Birmingham's image as a bustling business crossroads.

Last year, those running the old terminal passed 1.6m passengers through it only with the greatest of difficulty. By 1985, that annual figure is likely to be 1.9m, and by 1990 2.7m. The new terminal has been designed from the outset to accommodate up to three million passengers annually, and there is space nearby for expansion when this figure is exceeded some time in the future.

In addition to the terminal building, which incorporates many of the latest passenger and baggage-handling concepts, the Birmingham project includes 20 new aircraft stands, eight of them big enough to take wide-bodied jets, taxiways, car parks, aircraft aprons, fire station, control tower for ground operations, improved guidance lighting and instrument landing systems, and driverless trains, running on the principle of magnetic levitation and without wheels, connecting the terminal with the main-line rail station and the National Exhibition Centre nearby.

The impact of the project, and of the airlines which will use it, on the local community was carefully considered, with the result that 670,000 of the 1.3m cubic metres of earth excavated were reused to construct noise barriers. The



Birmingham's new international airport (left) has been designed to cater for up to three million passengers a year by 1990. (Right) Driverless trains without wheels connect the terminal with the mainline rail station and NEC near by.



West Midlands County Council, operator of the airport, is empowered by Act of Parliament to make grants to householders for the insulation of their property, and some £5m has been committed so far.

An advanced noise-monitoring system is being installed, and the county council claims that all of these measures will give one of the quietest environments around any of the larger airports in Britain.

John Laing, the main contractor, handed the new construction over to the county council in January this year, 18 weeks ahead of schedule, and after final fitting out the airlines moved from the old terminal into the new during April. Since then, apart from the usual problems associated with the commissioning of any complex new building, the facilities have been working well.

Journey times for passengers through the airport, from the moment of touchdown to leaving the site, are being improved dramatically due not only to the Maglev train connection mentioned earlier, but to the fact that the terminal and its car parks were placed close to the M6 and M42 motorways, and that a taxiway parallel to the airport main runway was constructed to enable airlines to turn off at speed after landing, so minimiz-

ing the time spent on the ground before disembarkation.

With its vastly upgraded facilities, Birmingham now hopes to attract more airline services, and also to become a place to which operators can divert when bad weather closes other airports in Britain. But while new facilities are available for jumbo jets, the airport is also increasingly becoming a centre for the new breed of commuter airlines which has prospered in recent years.

The future for Birmingham airport looks set fair, the only cloud on the immediate horizon being who will run the new facility when the West Midlands County Council is swept away by Act of Parliament in May next year. But despite this uncertainty, Councillor Colin Beardwood, chairman of the airport committee, remains confident that the development can only have an advantageous effect on the local travel scene.

He said: "The new airport will give holidaymakers, business travellers, and general air passengers alike the most modern and efficient airport facilities in Europe. It will do much to put the region on the international business map, besides enhancing the reputation of the West Midlands as the industrial and commercial heartland of the country."

Arthur Reed

Gateway to the sun

The new Birmingham airport terminal is designed on three main floors, the first two given over to departing and arriving passengers, and the top floor to administration offices, and the novel feature of a special gallery for aircraft spotters.

A glass roof allows the outside light into the central well around which the terminal is constructed, and the steel-frame structure is clad in moulded panels and tinted glass. On the ground level are the check-in and baggage handling halls, ticket desks, lounges for passengers, buffets, the Customs hall, and immigration.

Further eating facilities are on the first floor, together with more flight lounges, passport control, the Maglev driverless train terminus, and entrances to the two piers, one 920 feet long, the other 800 feet, through which the airlines are approached.

The construction project was one of the biggest yet carried out in the West Midlands, with immense amounts of materials involved. Some 130,000 cubic metres of crushed stone foundation were used for the taxiways and aircraft apron, capped with 120,000 cubic metres of concrete, while drainage work took up 20 km of piping.

Space, light and air

West Midlands County Council's own "in-house" architects and engineers designed the new terminal. Silk and Frazier acted as quantity surveyors, W. S. Atkins Partners as mechanical and electrical consultants, and W. A. Clouston and Partners as external landscape consultants. Structural engineering advice was provided by the county council's county surveyor's department, which also acted as project manager.

Main contractor was John Laing Construction, and the project was completed in less than three years, a considerable feat when it is considered that more than 50 groups had to be catered for in the design and building, from passengers to the airlines, from spectators and those who go to see passengers off and greet them on return, to the many bodies providing essential services.

The overall impression given by the terminal, which has a total floor area of 16,000 square metres, is one of space, light and air, with a bright and welcoming atmosphere to both of the main groups of passengers who patronize it, the Midlands businessman, and the thousands of families from the region who see it on their annual package holiday excursions as their "gateway to the sun".

The considerable number of passengers who have passed through the new terminal between its commissioning earlier this year, and today's formal opening, have found facilities greatly improved compared with those in the old terminal, designed during an aviation era when the maximum load in an airliner was 40 passengers, rather than the 400 of today.

Distance from the front door of the terminal to the check-in desks where passengers can hand over their heavy luggage is a few yards only, and there are escalators to carry the travellers to the first floor, from which the airlines are boarded.

The twenty new aircraft stands are approached down one of two piers, and then through air bridges which adjust in height to the aircraft which they are serving, from a small commuter to a wide-bodied jumbo. One of the major drawbacks of the old terminal was that passengers had to be shepherded by ground staff across the airfield parking apron, with no shelter from the elements, and from their flights.

West Midlands County Council, operator of the airport, estimates that its new terminal can deal with 33,000 aircraft movements a year.

Access to the terminal is also easier, as it is connected to the

Making life easier for the traveller

main-line rail station by its own train, while those coming by car have only a short distance to drive off the motorway system, and can then park in a choice of car parks offering 5,000 spaces. This is particularly useful for the many business executives in the Midlands who need to travel easily to the commercial centres of Europe without the inconvenience of a time-consuming journey to Heathrow or Gatwick.

Commuter airlines are well established at Birmingham, offering services mainly aimed at the region's big business community with aircraft capacity ranging between 12 and 70 seats.

Nor have those whose main interest is watching airliners, rather than travelling in them - the aircraft spotters - been forgotten. A special gallery was

designed-in for the spotters before the project began in the early 1980s. It is approached by its own separate entrance, so that the enthusiasts do not come into conflict with the passengers, and so widely popular has it proved during the few weeks that it has been open that the airport authorities are under heavy pressure to issue a season ticket.

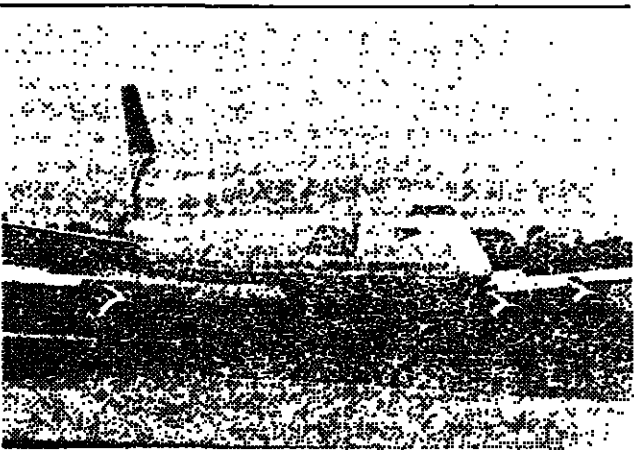
The county council hopes that the popularity of the modern facilities which it has provided, plus the designation of part of the airport site as a freeport, and the starting of a £2m development of air cargo facilities, will generate sufficient new business to push the airport back into the black.

Birmingham airport has returned profits for almost 10 years, but is forecast to lose up to £2m in the current year as a result of the costs associated with the big expansion which has taken place. Government contributed £24.5m in grants towards the cost, and the European Investment Bank £21.5m in cheap loans, but despite this substantial help, other loans, and the ploughing in of £1.6m in airport profits from previous years, some £5m had to be appropriated from the county council general rate fund to top the expenditure up to the total of £60m.

A R

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Unequalled road and rail connections.

Birmingham International Airport is in the centre of England's motorway network. The M1, M5, M6, M42 and other trunk routes are close by. Every major centre in Central England can be reached within 60 minutes driving time.

Birmingham International railway station is linked by the revolutionary MAGLEV shuttle train with the Airport terminal building. It

provides regular and frequent mainline services to London and all parts of the UK. The journey time to London is only 80 minutes.

Regular scheduled bus and rail services to Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton and other main centres complete the excellent communication links.

Increasing opportunities for air freight.

Hand-in-hand with the comings and goings of business people is the traffic of air freight.



Already, plans are well advanced for the construction of a new cargo centre at the Airport. A location close to the newly designated Freeport development will increase international freight appeal even further. Freight turnover is currently running at an all-time high, and the new facilities will establish Birmingham as a major international air cargo centre.

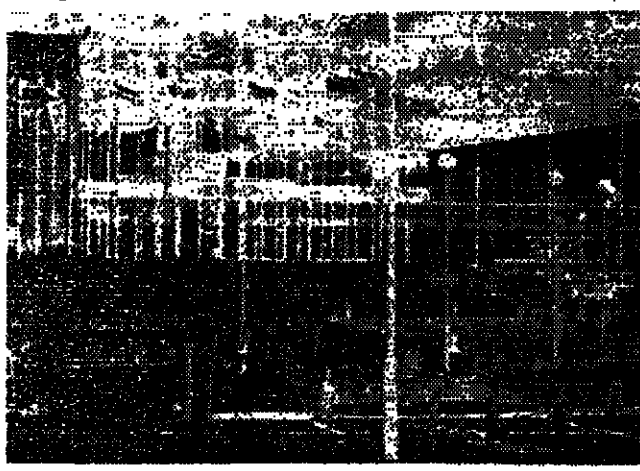
Comfortable and efficient passenger facilities.

Passenger handling systems at the new terminal building are designed to get you from check-in to take-off with the minimum of delay.

All the facilities are of the highest international standards, ranging from automated baggage handling to a bank. Restaurants, lounges, bars and shops - including the well-stocked Duty Free shop - are all you'd expect at a major new airport.

Next door to the NEC. On the doorstep of industry.

The National Exhibition Centre completes the three-part International Airport/Station/Exhibition complex.



The new airport complex is linked by MAGLEV to the NEC which has become the premier British location for major trade exhibitions as well as a concert venue, entertainment arena and home of International Motor Shows. The new Airport is the gateway to the world for Midlands commerce and industry helping to open up export markets and providing an entry point for potential industrial investment.

Easier for you to fly out, easier for tourism to fly in

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The NEW

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West Midlands
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For further information contact: Birmingham International Airport, Birmingham B26 3QJ Tel: 021-767 5511 Telex: 335582

No tears about losing the 'bus shelter' image

Some said the old Elmdon airport was a rather homely place, but nostalgia is little help to a major modern airline attempting to offer passengers at a regional airport the facilities they have learned to accept at international level.

That is why Captain Rod Clarke, British Airways general manager in the Midlands, is shedding no tears now that the new has replaced the old at Birmingham International. He is dealing with more than 400,000 passengers on scheduled and weekend charter services and the new terminal is not a luxury, but a basic requirement.

He said: "We have to offer everything that goes with a fast jet service. We offer that service in the air and it is very pleasing that our landlords have now done the same on the ground". British Airways is the largest scheduled operator at Birmingham International, providing both domestic and European services on BAC One Elevens, but in all there are about 30 separate airlines operating from the airport and up to 80 inclusive tour companies have brought holiday traffic there up to the 50 per cent mark.

The old "bus shelter" image of some of Britain's local airports has been despatched forever. Apart from its well-known names of British Midland, Dan Air, Aer Lingus and Brymon, Birmingham airport truly earns the "international" tag with Air India flights to Amritsar, Bombay, Delhi and Moscow, Cyprus Airways to Larnaca and Wardenair advanced booking charter services to Canada. That is without mentioning the growing list of European and Mediterranean holiday destinations.

Congestion cut inside and out

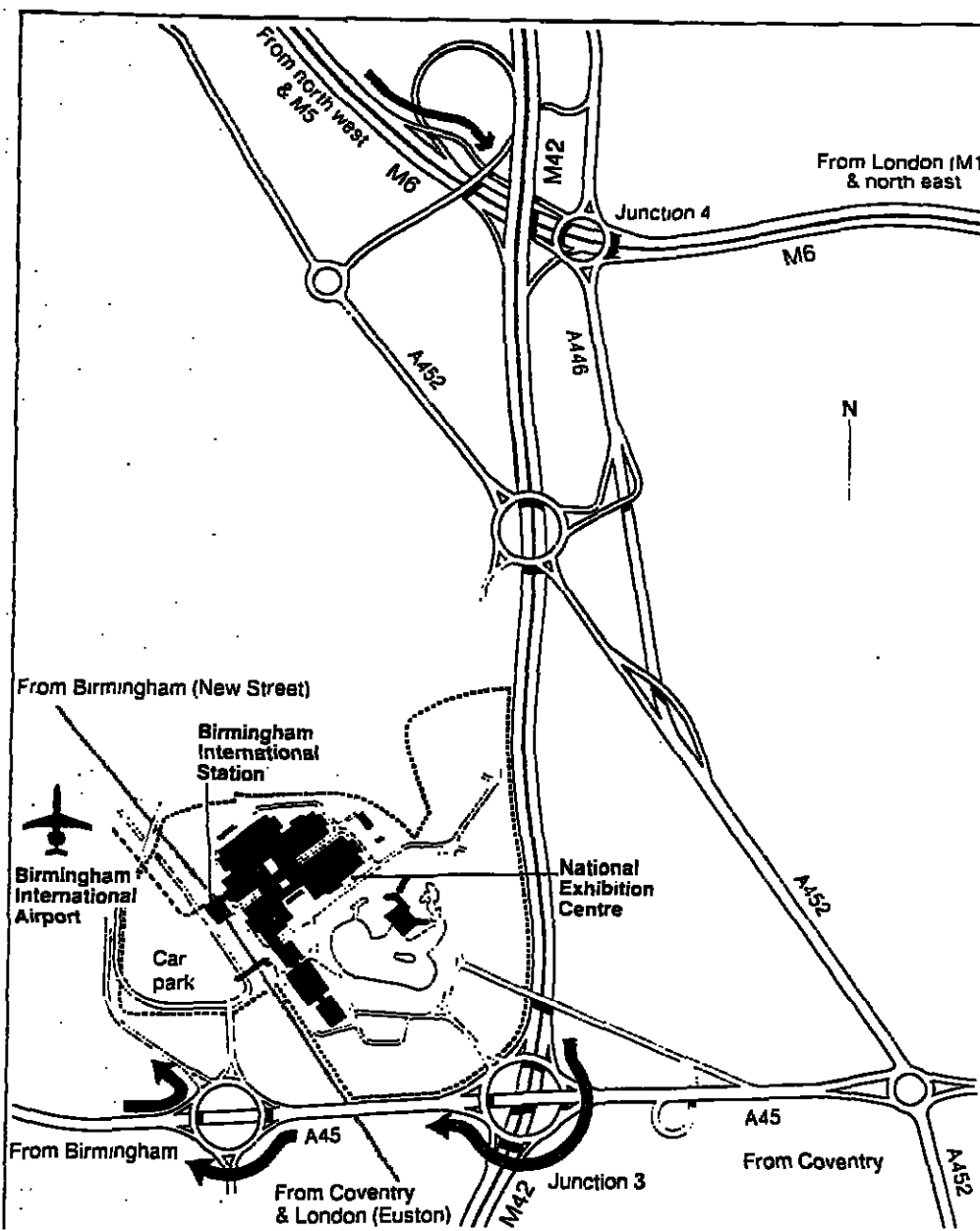
Horizon, the Birmingham-based holiday company, is the leading inclusive tour operator through its airline Orion. More recently a number of other companies have significantly increased their business at Birmingham.

Birmingham Executive Airways - which picked up some of the routes dropped by British Airways - is a newcomer at Birmingham and boasts its own passenger ticket desk for flights to Zurich, Copenhagen and Aberdeen.

In providing such a range of services the airport now has a total of 70 employers and 2,500 staff. The new three-storey terminal building provides about five times the space of the old, cramped complex.

The established runway system has been retained but to the relief of the airlines a new, parallel taxiway eliminates many of the former problems of congestion.

From the main building stretch a 920 feet international



pier and an 800 feet long common pier, both equipped with adjustable enclosed bridges allowing passengers to walk directly into a waiting aircraft. A domestic service apron has 20 aircraft stands, eight of which can accommodate wide-bodied jets - vital for the airport's anticipated role as a major diversion airport.

The ground floor of the terminal building contains the check in hall, ticket desks, baggage handling area, domestic-international flight lounges, buffet, immigration control and customs.

On the floor above is the MAGLEV terminal, departure lounges and passport control and the entrance to the piers. The top storey houses administration offices and facilities for those seeing off and welcoming home passengers.

It is facilities such as these that make life so much easier for the passengers and thus for the airlines and airport authorities.

There is more than a small sigh of relief in Captain Clarke's voice when he describes the facilities he can now offer passengers. A pilot for 32 years, he still takes the controls on some scheduled British Airways services and experiences at first hand the "sharp end" of passenger discomfort and frustration caused by poor airport facilities.

He said: "We want the total package, from buying a ticket to computerized checking in, to be as smooth, efficient and pleasing an experience for the customer as it can be."

Craig Seton
Midland Correspondent

Freeport signal for growth in freight

A new 60,000 square feet cargo centre to be built at Birmingham International Airport will be adjacent to and have common access with the proposed new West Midlands Freeport, which has raised hopes that there will be a considerable freight "spin-off".

Freight handling is a relatively small part of the airport's operations but Mr Brian Summers, the commercial director, believes the new £2m bonded cargo centre and the development of the much larger freeport area could signal new growth.

At present the airport has a cargo handling centre operated by British Airways dealing with about 10,000 tonnes of cargo per year, although only about one quarter of it is air-freighted. Skyward is the only specific air cargo carrier, operating a parcels delivery service from Birmingham to Belfast for Securicor.

All other cargo is carried in the holds of scheduled services. The establishment of a freeport has now excited hopes that its impact on the airport can be nothing but beneficial. The freeport concept gives companies the chance to process, store or manufacture goods in a customs free zone. Duties become payable as they leave, and then only in the home or EEC market.

The first phase will be a £2.5m development on 15 acres and a later stage will involve a further 18 acres.

Mr Summers already has it

in mind that an airline dealing purely with freight could be established at Birmingham International to handle the new business that should follow.

He said: "We certainly hope there will be a spin-off. The most advantageous operation for a freeport would be to import goods from outside the EEC and reexport them, using the freeport as a transit point."

"There is no doubt that existing airlines see it as a boost to their opportunities to develop the freight side of their operations."

"We very much want the freight side to develop. At present it is below the level of activity for such a region, but there is an increasing number of opportunities and it is very important that we can offer good freight facilities for the time when the recession ends and industry gets going again."

In a recent survey by Air Hazel - part of Haniel International Forwarders - it was suggested that nearly a half of British exporters would increase the proportion of goods they send by air over the next two years.

Regional airports were shown to be popular with 60 per cent of those who took part in the survey and more than half favoured central-local government subsidies for regional airports. Manchester was the most widely used (53 per cent) followed by Birmingham (22 per cent).

CS



Easy access for passengers to aircraft from the new apron tiers at Birmingham, and left, the motorway links.

Waiting for the gamble to pay off

When British Airways shed some of its European services from Birmingham in its "leaner and fitter" operation, it was not long before they were gratefully picked up and used to establish a new airline - Birmingham Executive Airways.

The infant new enterprise is now striving to establish its name alongside the better known carriers at Birmingham International and attempting to maintain and even widen the range of choice available to an increasing selective travelling public.

In the growing competitive world of airlines, there was some surprise that a new carrier could slot in and find business at Birmingham. British Airways pulled in its horns to concentrate on established domestic and European routes while British Midland, Aer Lingus, NLM, Dan Air and Brymon looked after other important domestic and continental routes.

According to Mr Robert Taylor, director of Birmingham International, the pattern of air travel has changed significantly since 1977-78 when the planning application was submitted for the new airport complex.

Then, he said, scheduled services represented 60 per cent of airport traffic. Of the 1,613,000 passengers carried last year the total was about equally divided between scheduled services and charter and inclusive tours.

It indicated how air travellers - holidaymakers increasingly - were demanding a fuller and better service at local level and inclusive tours from regional centres rapidly grew as the holiday companies responded to that demand.

Mr Taylor said all concerned agreed when the new airport was being planned that it should be a short to medium haul operation.

"It meant we did not compete with Heathrow or Manchester and we knew it was commercially right for the

region. I think our market will stay pretty much as it is now - split 50-50. Scheduled services were badly hit by the recession but I think there is going to be greater liberalization of route structures and that could well bring up scheduled services again."

The airport has been developed to cope annually with three million passengers and 33,000 take off and landings by 1990 - its planning year - and for it to reach anything like that figure there would have to be a considerable expansion in domestic and international scheduled services and the package holiday trade.

Horizon, through its airline Orion, is the largest holiday group operating out of Birmingham and is carrying more than 110,000 passengers a year. Mr Brian Summers, the airport's commercial director, said almost 80 tour operators used the airline - an increase of 15 in the current year - and early indications already suggested a "sizeable increase" in their operations this year.

While tour operators and established airlines wait for the end of the recession and the new business they hope will be created, many eyes are on Captain Trevor Jones, managing director of Birmingham Executive Airways, to see if his gamble at the new airport pays off.

He moved quickly when British Airways gave up its Brussels, Milan, Copenhagen and Zurich routes to concentrate on European services to Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Amsterdam, Paris and Dublin and domestic services to Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Manchester and Belfast.

Birmingham Executive Airways was created on a total issued share capital of £650,000 - Captain Jones put up £100,000 - and using three British Aerospace Jetstream 31 aircraft now runs regular services to Copenhagen, Milan and Zurich.

He said: "None of the British airlines would take over the routes given up by British Airways, except Brussels, and I knew there was no way to make them pay using large aircraft."

"We looked for an aircraft with eight to 18 seats and went to British Aerospace for the Jetstream 31. There is still a tremendous amount of business

activity between these cities and the West Midlands." Birmingham Executive Airways now employs more than 50 people and in the autumn starts services to Stuttgart and Stockholm. It is also buying a larger Gulfstream aircraft to supplement the fleet, which also operates flights to Aberdeen for British Airways.

CS

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The Haden Group, engineers worldwide, are proud to add Birmingham International Airport's new terminal to their long list of airport projects, both in the United Kingdom and overseas.

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A train without wheels

A wheelless mini train levitated by electro-magnets 15 millimetres above a 620 metres-long track is the means chosen by the new airport's planners to transfer the 15 per cent of air passengers who use the inter-city rail link from the nearby Birmingham International railway station.

MAGLEV, as the £4m system is called, has not been without its teething troubles. In the weeks up to today's official opening it has been put through its paces many times to ensure that it is problem-free and efficient in the hope and expectation that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will become its most famous passengers.

It has been developed by the People Mover Group, a consortium of many of the top names in the British transport industry together with West Midlands County Council and the research and development division of British Rail.

The revolutionary system, they believe, has many potential applications throughout the world and if it is proven at Birmingham International Airport it could open a large export order book.

At the airport automatic MAGLEV cars will move at up to 30 mph along parallel tracks on a concrete guideway between the airport building and the nearby railway station and National Exhibition Centre. Each car can carry up to 32 passengers and their luggage and is designed to operate to a fixed schedule or respond to passenger demand. The longest wait for a car should be around two minutes and each journey should take only 90 seconds.

Instead of wheels, each MAGLEV car employs four pairs of electromagnets. These react with steel suspension rails on each side of the "T"-shaped track. When activated, the magnets lift up towards the rails and the vehicle is raised.

Automatic electronic control then maintains a constant air gap of 15mm. Should the power fail, the car settles on to brake pads.

Cars are propelled by a linear induction motor - described as very similar to a conventional rotating electric motor cut and opened out flat. The driverless car contains a micro-computer which has overall control of the vehicle system and incorporates a fail-safe device.

With no rotating or moving parts and no contact with the track while moving, costly regular maintenance of MAGLEV is not required. Operating costs should therefore be much lower than a conventional system.

A short shuttle ... with a potential market of 'not less than £100m around the world'

Mr Harry Kline, the chairman of GEC Transportation Projects, leader of the People Mover Group, said of the system's export potential: "There ought to be a market of not less than £100m around the world. We see its application as a short shuttle, when the requirement is to move a large number of people a comparatively short distance between two points."

The immediate past history of MAGLEV started in the 1970s when the Department of Transport asked British Rail's research and development division at Derby to examine the concept and it was taken to "a

state of hardware" over several years.

It was realized that private enterprise should be involved and an approach was made through GEC Transportation Projects to the West Midlands County Council to see if a MAGLEV system could be part of the new airport development. Thereafter both Government and the local authority played their part in financing the system, together with the private sector through the consortium.

Considerable interest has been shown in the system not least from Atlantic City in the United States where MAGLEV cars could be used to transport gamblers from one casino to another. Taiwan Zoo is also said to be watching its progress carefully to assess if it can be used there.

Councillor Colin Beardwood, chairman of the West Midlands County Council airport committee, said the system could easily be used in other airport developments or in pedestrianized centres.

He said: "When we first discussed MAGLEV we realized it would be a first for Britain and could become a real draw, a shop window for the West Midlands. We also knew it was something of a gamble because with a new system of this kind there is a lot of potential for problems. It is a great challenge."

In peak times two trains will be in constant use. At less busy times passengers would be able to summon cars "on request".

The People Mover Group consortium consists of GEC Transportation Projects, Balfour Beatty Power Construction, Brush Electrical Machines, GEC-General Signal, GEC Transmission and Distribution Projects, GEC Warton Kramer and Metro-Cammell who produced the vehicle.

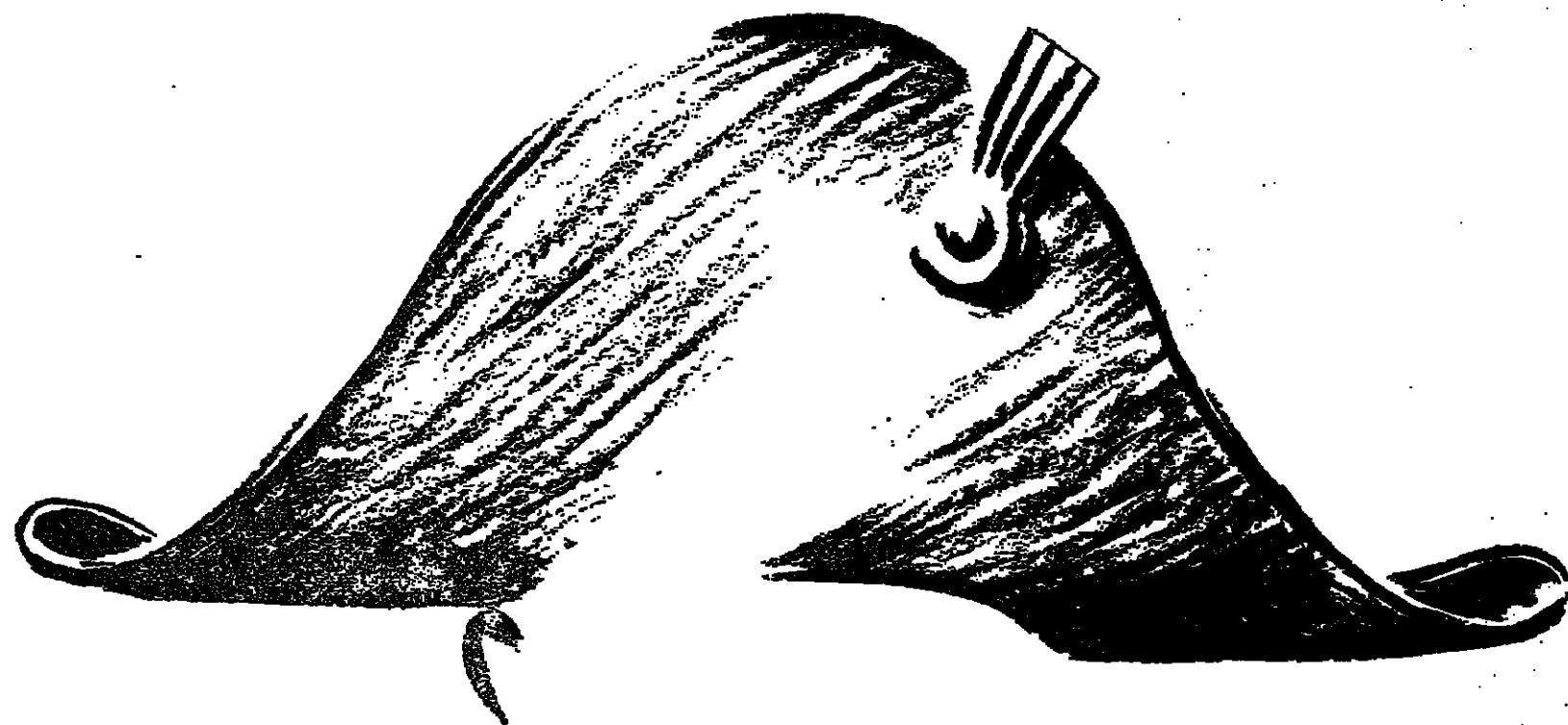
CS

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Hambro doubters put reputations at stake

The market is convinced that the projected merger between Charterhouse J. Rothschild and Hambro Life Assurance will not take place. It is a conviction difficult to contest if only because the will to bring about this grand alliance is not universal, either among the general staff or the troops in the field, notably the Hambro Life sales force.

Anything short of a complete merger will shake the reputations of both Mr Jacob Rothschild and Mr Mark Weinberg, whose ambitious reach will be seen to have exceeded their practical grasp.

Consequential damage of a structural kind would be greater for CJR, which has yet to come convincingly together, than for Hambro Life, which is a more coherent entity whose future earnings path has fewer twists and pitfalls.

This contrast in coherence and quality of earnings is said to be the heart of the matter. It is clear that the earnings of the combined group would come from disparate sources, flow with different strength and purity at different times, and not support the share values the new company either deserves or would need for its future growth.

The fault in this reasoning is that if it is valid now, it was valid before CJR decided to buy 25 per cent of Hambro Life from Hambros Bank and Mr Rothschild and Mr Weinberg agreed their master plan. It has taken the opposition to the merger of key people in Hambro Life, led notably by the joint managing director Mr Sydney Lipworth, to bring it to the fore.

Hambro Life has built its considerable success partly on the life assurance products it has devised but mainly on the selection and motivation of its salesmen. Of the said to be 3,000 of them, about 300 are responsible for 40 per cent of the company's earnings. Rewards have taken the form of Hambro Life shares, about which there has been no complaint until now. But a share in a huge financial services conglomerate, in the short term at least, does not have the same appeal. The salesmen had not worked that out for themselves, the market did it for them. Hambro Life is patently vulnerable to losing key people, for whom there is no shortage of bidders.

Crucial board meetings are due tomorrow, when some kind of working compromise, far short of a merger is likely to be hammered out since CJR cannot at this stage just ditch its 25 per cent interest in Hambro Life.

Meanwhile Hambros Bank must be smiling (it has presumably banked CJR's cheque) while over at NM Rothschild, smirking might be a better word.

Good omens for Enterprise Oil

Stock market volatility does nothing for the nerves of those promoting new issues. The present shakeout in the market has done little, however, to cast a shadow over the forthcoming flotation of Enterprise Oil, the new North Sea exploration and production company which Mr Peter Walker has pieced together from the fringes of Sir Denis Rooke's British Gas empire. Enterprise - which is provisionally scheduled to come to the market in the second half to next month - still looks the most easily marketable of the three issues which the Government is planning to wheel out of its stable of privatization runners between now and the end of the year. (The others are Jaguar and British Telecom).

For one thing the oil sector is one of the few which have so far not fallen totally foul of the angst which has gripped the markets on both sides of the Atlantic in

the last few days. The FT oils index for example has dropped by 65 points in the last nine days.

The oil analysts, who received a group presentation last week, have been mostly impressed by the sharpness of the management team, and the clarity of their thinking about where the company is heading. With nearly £100m of cash in the bank, a debt-free balance sheet and an obvious need to embark on an acquisition course in the interest of making best use of its tax shelters, Enterprise does not lack opportunities.

The main worry so far has been whether the company will make a mess of the expansionist programme it acknowledges will be necessary in the next couple of years. Shareholders in both oil companies and their banks have learnt the hard way in the last three years that it is only too easy to pay too much or buy a dud in the oil business.

The flotation is scheduled to take place on about June 20, and should raise more than £400m for the Treasury. The total could be exceeded comfortably by £50m or so if all goes well. No decision about tender or fixed price offer has yet been taken, but there seems quite a strong case for a tender. Kleinwort Benson, the lead bank to the issue, will clearly want to give Enterprise a rating nearer that of Charterhouse Petroleum, the most successful of the independent oil companies, than that of the lamented Britoil. Pending the prospectus, the omens are looking good.

A deficit too bad to be true

The monthly trade figures habitually swing about and they are also subject to the most enormous revisions. The markets therefore treated yesterday's announcement of a record monthly deficit on current account of £588m in April with some scepticism. The figures simply had to be too bad to be true and the official explanation lends support to this view.

The visible trade deficit expanded from £227m to £388m but about two-thirds of this deterioration was due to a much reduced surplus on oil trade. Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, can apparently take about a quarter of the credit for this but the bulk of the drop in the oil surplus is attributed to oil companies building up stocks because of growing tensions in the Gulf.

Stripping out trade and particularly erratic items such as ships and precious stones, the Government can take comfort from the latest three-monthly trends which show export volume 2½ per cent higher and imports only 2 per cent up. Longer term the government statisticians detect some fattening out in non-oil export growth while import volume is continuing to rise.

At this stage the Government is sticking to its budget-time forecast of a £2 billion current account surplus this year. The average margin of error on official forecasts for the current account is about £2.5 billion.

Despite comforting explanations, and yesterday's muted reaction in the foreign exchange markets, the latest trade figures will not help the cause of limiting the upward movement in British interest rates. Money markets were calmer yesterday and the authorities are clearly keen to delay any rise in base rates until conditions have settled.

The clearers for their part will almost certainly wait for next week's money supply figures before reaching any decision but it is hard to see how a further increase in base rates from the prevailing 9 to 9.25 per cent can be avoided.

Final Sumitomo deal will save Fort Dunlop jobs

By Andrew Cornelius

The battle to revive Dunlop Holdings, the troubled tyre and engineering group, continued yesterday with news that proposals for a capital reconstruction will be announced in August.

Sir Maurice Hodgson, said after a stormy two-hour shareholders' meeting in London that all the steps had been taken for a financial reorganization.

He also confirmed that the final details of the £120m deal to sell Dunlop's European tyre business to Sumitomo Rubber Industries of Japan were agreed last Sunday. Sumitomo has agreed to keep open the Fort Dunlop tyre plant in Birmingham which means that several hundred jobs will be saved, Sir Maurice said.

Within the next three to four weeks Dunlop also hopes to announce the first of a series of divestments planned as part of the group's recovery strategy. Negotiations will then begin with more than 40 banks which

have supported Dunlop to reschedule short-term debts of more than £350m.

"This may well involve converting loans to equity," Sir Maurice said.

Sir Maurice was also forced to defend the board's decision to pay £134,000 compensation to his predecessor Sir Campbell Fraser, whose contract was terminated in January, in a deal which included a Rolls-Royce, the use of a company chauffeur, access to an office in Mayfair and the honorary position as president of Dunlop.

Shareholders were told that the deal was reached after legal advice. Sir Maurice said that the contract was broken and there was an obligation to pay for that. He added that the final judgment about the size of the payment for the 16 months remaining of Sir Campbell's contract "was made by me".

After a close vote by shareholders at the meeting to approve the annual report and



Sir Maurice: reorganization set for August

accounts for 1983, Sir Maurice decided to poll all shareholders on the reappointment of five directors. The result of the poll will be announced on Friday.

As the meeting finished, Sir Maurice was further embarrased when Mr Vernon Morrell, who claims to hold 200,000 Dunlop shares, said that a

motion approving the appointment of Mr Ghafar Baba, chairman of Pegi Malaysia, the largest shareholders in Dunlop, had not been put to the meeting.

Sir Maurice hastily reconvened the meeting and put forward the resolution despite protests from shareholders who claimed that this was in breach of the company's rules.

Earlier, Sir Maurice attempted to appease shareholders by explaining that 1984 was a year of transition. With the ending of the cash drain of the European tyre activities, strategy will be to continue to support profitable tyre operations overseas while reinforcing the development of existing high technology products.

Under the timetable agreed for the sale of the European tyre business, Sumitomo will take over Dunlop's British and West German tyre manufacturing operations on January 1. The future of the tyre retail operations in the two countries has yet to be resolved.

Rebel plea to extend SE deadline rejected

By Our City Staff

Small and medium-sized stockbroking firms opposed to the Stock Exchange Council's acceptance of a new dual-capacity system have had a request turned down for a two-month extension of the discussion deadline.

All views on the Exchange's consultative green paper about the options facing the 200 of its member firms, should be with the council by Thursday.

By July, the new deadline sought by the rebel firms, the Stock Exchange intend to have made up its mind.

Meanwhile a new name has been added to the list of candidates proposed for election to the Stock Exchange Council - Mr Keith Goldie-Morrison, of Keith Bayley Rogers, who is also on the action committee of the rebel brokers.

The two factors are Mr Jeremy Lewis of Seymour, Pierce, which provided the focal point for opposition, and Mr Jonathan Miller, of Fielding Newson-Smith.

If this is all designed to give the smaller man an increased say at the policy-making table, many more will have to come forward. On current numbers there is only one more name than seats available.

Exco International, the money broking group, has changed its mind about plans for entering the London stock market.

Instead of starting its own firm, it is to take a 29.9 per cent stake in the eight-partner firm of Galloway & Pearson, which will merge with Wico, Exco's Hongkong-based stockbroker.

Mr Bill Matthews of Exco said yesterday: "We are determined to form a major securities house based out of the UK. We considered buying a bigger firm, but rejected that for a position we could influence, support and direct."

Galloway & Pearson has 57 staff and serves mainly institutional clients. It specializes in research into gilts, retailing, insurance, South Africa, and non-manufactured food.

Steinberg in proxy battle for Disney

From Nick Gilbert, New York

Mr Paul Steinberg, the Wall Street financier is making his long-awaited move on Walt Disney. Yesterday Mr Steinberg, who controls 12 per cent of the film conglomerate, said he would launch a "proxy fight" against the Disney board.

This common American manoeuvre usually involves attempting to unseat company directors and replacing them with new ones appointed by dissident shareholders.

Mr Steinberg has announced plans to increase his Disney stake to 49.9 per cent via a tender offer or open market purchases. But this would cost him \$870m (£630m). A proxy fight if successful would provide control at a much cheaper price.

Earlier Disney shares, driven up from \$40 to more than \$65 in past weeks by bid speculation, slipped slightly when the US hotel chain, Marriott Corporation denied it would help Mr Steinberg in his attempts to control the future of Walt Disney.

He also claims to be talking to "potential investors" about joining forces, renewing suggestions that he may link up with Mr Roy Disney, the nephew of the late Walt Disney started the

Mirror set for profits to nosedive

By Philip Robinson

Profit expectations for Mirror Group Newspapers are now even worse than was predicted in March. At that time it emerged that profits would be halved to £4m, but they are now unlikely to top £1m.

The new blow to the £100m flotation comes after Mr Clive Thornton, chairman, issued a stern message to 3,900 staff that economies must be made to put the newspapers on a profitable footing. However, a memo to all journalistic staff to halve business entertainment has so far been ignored.

Mr Douglas Long, chief executive, refused to confirm or deny the figures yesterday. He said: "You know I cannot say anything while the prospectus is being prepared. It is still being drawn up."

The cash from the June 4 flotation of the news agency Reuters, estimated to net £30m for MGN, will not be with the company until June 12.

Meanwhile, some indication of just how MGN has fared this year should emerge on Tuesday when its parent company, Reed International, discloses its profits for the

GrandMet in US sale

Grand Metropolitan has announced that an agreement in principle has been reached for the sale of its American cigarette business, Liggett & Myers, to a group of management, employees and outside investors for around about \$325m (£235m).

Negotiations have been in progress for several months for the sale of L & M which last year made an operating profit of \$60.5m. The purchase consideration will be in cash.

Completion of the transaction independent on the finalization of financial arrangements and the negotiations of a definitive agreement.

L & M has performed very successfully due to its generic brand cigarettes.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Amsterdam: 172.5 up 0.7
Sydney: AO Index 576.3 down 1.7
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1006.4 up 1.1
Brussels: General Index 150.93 down 0.1
Paris: CAC Index 172.1 up 0.6
Zurich: SCA General 301.80 up 0.30

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.3860 up 10 pps
Index 79.6 up 0.2
DM 3.7875 up 0.0150
FF 11.6550 up 0.05
Yen 321.25 up 0.05
Index 131.3 up 0.4
DM 2.7325 up 0.0125
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3890
Dollar DM 2.7290

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9.9½
Finance houses base rate 9
Discount market loans week fixed 7
3 month interbank 9½-9½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11½-11½
3 month DM 6½-5½
3 month FF 13½-13½
US rates
Bank prime rate 12.50
Fed funds 10½
Treasury long bond 96-96½
ECQ Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period from April 4, to May 1, 1984 inclusive: 8.934 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$385.50 pm \$385.80
close \$385.50-\$386 (£278.75-£279.25)
New York (latest): \$386.50
Kruggerand (per coin): \$387-388 (£287-287.75)
Sovereigns (new): \$390-391 (£285.50-£286.25)
*Excludes VAT

Botha 'seeks S African investment'

By Our City Staff

Senior executives of South African corporations believe that behind the visit to London of the prime minister, Mr P. W. Botha, lies a call for British companies to set up in South Africa to help the ailing economy.

Mr Botha, whose politics have not proved popular with all his colleagues, is expected to tell Mrs Thatcher that if the western world does not help the

South African economy to recover, then neighbouring countries heavily dependent on its prosperity will look more towards the communists for help.

Mr Edward Pavitt, president of the South Africa Foundation, representing 2,000 of the country's leading companies, said in London yesterday: "I don't know what he (Mr Botha) is

going to say but he must tell Mrs Thatcher that to stop a number of black African countries from turning more to the communists, the West must help our economy."

Mr Pavitt, also current chairman of General Mining Union Corporation in South Africa, said the country was hardly encouraged by a number of British companies recently selling up and leaving.

Single South-east retailing group nearer

CWS plans Co-op merger

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The South Suburban Co-operative Society based in Croydon, Surrey and among the top 25 retail Co-ops, is expected to merge soon with the Co-operative Wholesale Society. A final decision will be made at a meeting of South Suburban's members next month. It emerged at the Co-op Congress in Blackpool yesterday.

This would be the first entry into England by CWS as a retailer and is a pointer to radical change in the Co-op's retailing structure. The CWS supplies goods and services to the 123 retail Co-ops, but it runs most Co-op retailing in Scotland and Northern Ireland after rescues of retail societies. The powerful CWS, of which the Co-operative Bank and the CIS Insurance arm are part, might stop the Co-op's slide in the South-east.

The Co-op is under most pressure in the South-East from big multiple grocers like J.

Sainsbury and Tesco Stores. These two alone account for about two thirds of the grocery market in the Greater London area. The Co-op's regional market share is one of its lowest at just under 10 per cent.

The burden of the Co-op battle in the South-East is being carried by three organizations. One is Manchester-based CRS, traditionally the rescue service for troubled retail societies, which absorbed the London Co-op Society that operated north of the Thames.

South of the river, extending into Kent and Surrey there is South Suburban, with a turnover of more than £50m and Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, based at Woolwich, whose trade last year was £160m. South Suburban and Royal Arsenal have run into trading losses for four years consecutively, in each case amounting to a total of about £10m.

Attempts failed to create a stronger single unit by merging Royal Arsenal and South Suburban with the smaller Invicta Society.

But with its mounting problems South Suburban turned to CWS for help. The normal route would have been a merger with CRS, but the Co-op's biggest single retailer is still coping with the accumulated losses and problems of the old London Society.

CRS's reserves of £60m were almost halved during 1981 and 1982 after the London Society takeover, although a CRS trading deficit of £13.2m in 1982 was last year turned round to a £6m surplus.

The logical framework for a South-eastern regional society would be to put together South Suburban's Royal Arsenal, Invicta and the old London Co-op's area. But there is no sign that Royal Arsenal is in any hurry to join the CWS

What foreign exchange has been waiting for



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NEWS IN BRIEF

150 jobs at computer plant

The Align-rite Corporation of Burbank, California, has set up Europe's first purpose-built semi-conductor photomask operation in Wales, creating 150 jobs over the next three years.

The new company, Align-rite Ltd, will be the first tenant on the Mid-Glamorgan Science Park at Bridgend, where it will make the masks which are a critical part in the manufacture of microchips.

● A FINAL dividend of 4.39p is planned at Allied-Lyons, making 6.81p (6.05p) for the year to March 31. Pretax profits were £195m (£160m) on sales ahead from £2.6 billion to £2.85 billion.

Tempus, page 20
● INCHCAPE, the international trading group, increased pretax profits from £50.3m to £53m for the year to December 31. Turnover was up from £1.697 to £1.766m. The final dividend of 11p makes 18.15p for the year, the same as in 1982.

Tempus, page 20
● COURTAULDS, the textiles and chemicals concern, increased pretax profits to £117.8m for the year to March 31, up from £63.3m. Turnover was up from £1905.5m to £2038.1m. A final dividend of 3p makes 4.2p for the year (3.25p).

Tempus, page 20
● A WARNING of price increases for lubricants and special oils purchased on long-term contracts has gone to industry from Esso, BP and Gulf.

Easing Latin America's debt

This year's pretax profits rose from £2.27m to £3.8m on a turnover which was more than doubled to £20.4m. The figures include 24 days' profits from National Securities and Research Corporation of New York.

If the Latin Americans do not pay, the New York bankers are in a predicament. Their loans to these nations exceed their capital reserves. There is a danger that a debt moratorium would leave the banks either

A quite different proposal has been advanced by economists on the Shadow Open Market Committee, an American group

The author is economics partner at the stockbrokers L. Messel & Co.

(approx 97.77 per cent). The cash offer remains open.

● **JACKSON EXPLO-**
RATION: Figure for the first quarter of 1984 shows a pretax loss of \$786,112 (644,385 loss). The company has sold 25 per cent of its Adang block in Indonesia to two South Korean companies, including the Koran Petroleum corporation which is owned by the South Korean Government. Negotiations are continuing with other potential partners with a view of drilling a two-pronged oil programme in the block starting in the second half of this year. Shares were 71 down 2p.

A Bank for all seasons.

[illegible]

FT STOCK INDICES	
GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	78.20 (78.15)
FIXED INTEREST	82.62 (82.56)
INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY	826.2 (728.9)
GOLD MINES	680.6 (682.5)
ORDINARY DIVIDEND YIELD	4.72% (4.71%)
P/E RATIO (NET)	10.90 (10.98)
P/E RATIO (GROSS)	10.42 (10.48)

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares mark time

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, May 14. Dealings End, June 1. Contango Day, June 4. Settlement Day, June 11
 5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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BRITISH FUNDS

1980 Low cost			Price Change 1980					
BRITISH FUNDS								
SHORTS								
100	100	Treas	12%	1984	100%	-	11.925	9.643
100	100	Treas	12%	1984	100%	-	14.328	10.180
100	100	Each Cy	12%	1983	103%	-	11.852	10.260
100	100	Each Cy	12%	1983	101%	-	11.852	10.260
100	100	Each Cy	12%	1983	101%	-	11.852	10.260
100	100	Treas	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.414	10.759
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100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	11.220
100	100	Each	11 1/2%	1983	100%	-	11.852	

CRICKET: ESSEX LOSE GROUND ON LEADERS IN COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Willey century sends his former county to defeat

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

LEICESTER: Leicestershire (20 pts) beat Northamptonshire (3) by four wickets.

Despite the loss of all the second day and a good deal of the first, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire contrived a splendid finish yesterday. After Northamptonshire had declared twice and Leicestershire had forfeited their first innings, Leicestershire were left to make 332 to win in the afternoon and evening. They got them off the line ball, and in doing so lengthened their championship lead.

The match was won for Leicestershire by Gower, Willey and Whitaker, with useful help from here and there. Gower first put his side in touch with the clock. Willey had the satisfaction of scoring a century against his former employers, who he refused him the courtesy of his sight, and young Whitaker, hatted with a fine confidence over the final 20 overs.

Larkins, captaining Northamptonshire in Cook's absence, also played his part by keeping the game open, and Parsons got as big a cheer as anyone by driving the last ball, from Hanley, for four when one would have done.

New faces gave added interest to the day. They were there partly because of injuries to established players (Cook, Boyd-Moss, Sharp and Malender of Northamptonshire; Cliff, and Ferris of Leicestershire) partly because of redundancy (Tolchard, now coaching at Malvern) and partly re-location (Davison with Tasmania and John Steele with Glamorgan).

Ripley, therefore, a Yorkshireman aged 17, was making his first class debut as Northamptonshire's wicketkeeper. Walker, a striking miner when the season started, was having his medium-pace assaulted by Gower. Two Uppinghamians, Agnew and Whitaker, were in the Leicestershire side who

might otherwise not have been. In four innings this season, Whitaker has scored 290 runs with a disarmingly basic method.

At a quick glance there are something like 50 current first-class cricketers from the public schools. Uppingham's last two coaches, L. G. Berry and Maurice Hallam, both opened Leicestershire's innings. It is a link which both sides value.

Agnew has already taken seven more wickets this season than in the whole of last year. When, yesterday, he knocked out Hanley's middle stump, that was his thirtieth. Some slogs by Hanley, two or three sumptuous cover drives by Larkins, and a busy little 38 by Parsons, another on a fairly rare outing, was the extent of the morning's batting.

For fear of leaving Leicestershire too stiff a target and so renegeing on his side of the bargain, Larkins declared a second five minutes before lunch. There were 76 overs left - more in the unlikely event of Northamptonshire exceeding 18 to the hour - which asked of Leicestershire an overall scoring rate of 4.4 runs an over.

After 44 minutes they were 32 for two, with Gower reconnoitering. Except that he was out to a rather tired stroke - he skied Williams to deep mid-off - England's new captain looked to be suffering no ill effects from his poisoning. He was evidently quite dangerously ill.

By the time Gower was out yesterday, he was playing effortlessly. Well, his 71 took 110 minutes. Willey, finding it a harder work, had now to take over.

But he managed it, and when Briers was out Willey and Whitaker added 84 in 15 overs. With 20 overs and six wickets left Leicestershire needed 135. With 10 to go, and Willey and Whitaker still together, they wanted 65. Right to the end it was a thrillingly even race. The

only pity was that the holiday-makers were back at the grindstone.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE First Innings
M J Bamber, b Briers 28
J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
A J Parsons, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35

Second Innings
M J Bamber, not out 38
J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
A J Parsons, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35

LEICESTERSHIRE First Innings
J P Bamber, not out 38
J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
A J Parsons, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35

Second Innings
J P Bamber, not out 38
J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
A J Parsons, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35
D J Larkins, c Gower, b Berry 35

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-38, 3-104, 4-104, 5-104, 6-104, 7-104, 8-104, 9-104, 10-104, 11-104, 12-104, 13-104, 14-104, 15-104, 16-104, 17-104, 18-104, 19-104, 20-104, 21-104, 22-104, 23-104, 24-104, 25-104, 26-104, 27-104, 28-104, 29-104, 30-104, 31-104, 32-104, 33-104, 34-104, 35-104, 36-104, 37-104, 38-104, 39-104, 40-104, 41-104, 42-104, 43-104, 44-104, 45-104, 46-104, 47-104, 48-104, 49-104, 50-104, 51-104, 52-104, 53-104, 54-104, 55-104, 56-104, 57-104, 58-104, 59-104, 60-104, 61-104, 62-104, 63-104, 64-104, 65-104, 66-104, 67-104, 68-104, 69-104, 70-104, 71-104, 72-104, 73-104, 74-104, 75-104, 76-104, 77-104, 78-104, 79-104, 80-104, 81-104, 82-104, 83-104, 84-104, 85-104, 86-104, 87-104, 88-104, 89-104, 90-104, 91-104, 92-104, 93-104, 94-104, 95-104, 96-104, 97-104, 98-104, 99-104, 100-104, 101-104, 102-104, 103-104, 104-104, 105-104, 106-104, 107-104, 108-104, 109-104, 110-104, 111-104, 112-104, 113-104, 114-104, 115-104, 116-104, 117-104, 118-104, 119-104, 120-104, 121-104, 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1009-104, 1010-104, 1011-104, 1012-104, 1013-104, 1014-104, 1015-104, 1016-104, 1017-104, 1018-104, 1019-104, 1020-104, 1021-104, 1022-104, 1023-104, 1024-104, 1025-104, 1026-104, 1027-104, 1028-104, 1029-104, 1030-104, 1031-104, 1032-104, 1033-104, 1034-104, 1035-104, 1036-104, 1037-104, 1038-104, 1039-104, 1040-104, 1041-104, 1042-104, 1043-104, 1044-104, 1045-104, 1046-104, 1047-104, 1048-104, 1049-104, 1050-104, 1051-104, 1052-104, 1053-104, 1054-104, 1055-104, 1056-104, 1057-104, 1058-104, 1059-104, 1060-104, 1061-104, 1062-104, 1063-104, 1064-104, 1065-104, 1066-104, 1067-104, 1068-104, 1069-104, 1070-104, 1071-104, 1072-104, 1073-104, 1074-104, 1075-104, 1076-104, 1077-104, 1078-104, 1079-104, 1080-104, 1081-104, 1082-104, 1083-104, 1084-104, 1085-104, 1086-104, 1087-104, 1088-104, 1089-104, 1090-104, 1091-104, 1092-104, 1093-104, 1094-104, 1095-104, 1096-104, 1097-104, 1098-104, 1099-104, 1100-104, 1101-104, 1102-104, 1103-104, 1104-104, 1105-104, 1106-104, 1107-104

RACING: ZILBER DENIES THAT PRIZ LUPIN WINNER WILL MISS FRENCH DERBY

Saxham Breck to lead off Brighton double for Durr

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

Frank Durr, the Newmarket trainer, has a good chance of winning both the Flanagan and Allen Handicap at Brighton today with Saxham Breck and Garden Route.

Spanish Point will be trying to win the race that Durr has won twice in the past. Marks sponsors annually in memory of those famous members of the celebrated Crazy Gang for a second time, but his recent form does nothing to encourage me to think that he will beat Saxham Breck, who also has a victory over Brighton's switchback course to his credit.

Garden Route's weight for the Channel Handicap has been increased by a penalty for a victory at Pontefract last Friday. It should not stop him from winning again in this company however, because it was in some style that he put paid to the useful Alawir at Pontefract.

Redden has an excellent record at Brighton and I could fancy him if only I could be guaranteed that he would run as well as he did at Epsom last month when he finished fourth in the City and Suburban Handicap. However, his two subsequent races at Lingfield Park have been most disappointing, so I come down firmly in favour of Garden Route now.

No matter how Redden runs, Joe Mercer, his jockey, should not leave the course without tasting success because there are grounds for thinking that he will win the Klux Drinks Fillies Stakes on Dimant Blanche (nap) and American-bred filly trained by Peter Walwyn for Shaikh Maktoum Al Maktoum.

Dimant Blanche finished fourth at Windsor 16 days ago, beaten only two-and-a-half lengths by the winner Sorayah. In the meantime that form has been given a considerable boost, not only by Sorayah when she upset the odds laid on Sharp Ascent at Rippon a week ago, but also by the third horse,

Frank Durr: double chance at Brighton

Adelphi, who has won at Windsor and Pontefract in the meantime.

In the circumstances Dimant Blanche may be good enough to foil Musing, who finished fourth at Goodwood a week ago, five lengths behind Single Love and third to Sharp Ascent in the City and Suburban Handicap. However, his two subsequent races at Lingfield Park have been most disappointing, so I come down firmly in favour of Garden Route now.

No matter how Redden runs, Joe Mercer, his jockey, should not leave the course without tasting success because there are grounds for thinking that he will win the Klux Drinks Fillies Stakes on Dimant Blanche (nap) and American-bred filly trained by Peter Walwyn for Shaikh Maktoum Al Maktoum.

Dimant Blanche finished fourth at Windsor 16 days ago, beaten only two-and-a-half lengths by the winner Sorayah. In the meantime that form has been given a considerable boost, not only by Sorayah when she upset the odds laid on Sharp Ascent at Rippon a week ago, but also by the third horse,

Dahar not going direct to Epsom

From Desmond Stoneham, Paris

Dahar completed his final workout before the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) over 10 furlongs on Les Aigles training track at Chantilly yesterday morning. The colt will be ridden by Lester Piggott in the French classic and the partnership could be renewed three days later in the Epsom Derby provided Dahar performs with distinction next Sunday.

Although the gallops were extremely testing after a lot of recent rain, Dahar was seen to go well in the hands of work rider, Jacques Thevenet. Yesterday afternoon at Saint-Cloud, Maurice Zilberberg, trainer, denied reports that Dahar would go directly to Epsom, missing out his French engagement.

Zilber said: "Dahar runs at Chantilly first only in England if all goes well on Sunday." The only other French runner at Epsom will be the Prix Ganay winner, Romildo, who will contest the Coronation Cup.

Secrets and Capture Him, third and fourth behind Sadler's Wells in the Irish 2,000 Guineas, are among 14 four-day acceptors for the £25,000 Kilburne What A Guest Stakes at Phoenix Park on Saturday. Hollywood Party, trained by Barry Hills at Lambourn, is a possible challenger from England.

The 14 declarations are: Flame of Tazewell, Hollywood Party, Flery Cels, Secrets, Without Reserve, Argosy, Capture Him, Flight Plan, Masbubi, Red Russell, Sand Castle, Irish Piper, Tiamoon.

John Lowe was the jockey in form at Epsom yesterday when he won the double on Rotherfield Greys and Mandrake Belle. The latter had only 7st 7lb in the J and B Rare Scotch Whisky Sprint Handicap and made his long trip from Bagshot on off with a smooth success from Bold Bob.

Mandrake Belle went ahead two furlongs from home and soon took command. Brian Gubby, his trainer, said: "Mandrake Belle would probably reappear in the Ring and Brymer Trophy Handicap at the Epsom Derby meeting on June 7."

Rotherfield Greys' four-length victory in the John Lucas Maiden Stakes provided Chris Bell, the Malton trainer, with his first Flat winner. As Lowe jumped off a circus gold northern race.

Bell, who has 13 horses, said: "I could run him again at Haydock in eight days' time and he'll enter the double on Rotherfield Greys and Mandrake Belle. The latter had only 7st 7lb in the J and B Rare Scotch Whisky Sprint Handicap and made his long trip from Bagshot on off with a smooth success from Bold Bob."

Point-to-point, by Brian Beel

David Turner's travels in his quest to win the men's riding championship were again in vain last Thursday and at two weekend meetings. The East Anglian rider, who took two horses across the country into Wales for the Llandelllo Farmers meeting on Thursday evening, managed only one second place. This was on Laurel Hill in the Open, where he looked as if Sparkford would be the big danger in a four-horse race.

Turner, this was not to be, as Tim Jones, the schoolboy, won the first round of the Llandelllo Farmers meeting on Thursday evening. Turner's second ride in the Restricted Open race, but before this, in the Ladies Open, Mandy Lingard had brought her season's total to 11 with a second place in the Ladies Open. Cover, Tim Rooney drew a blank here, so Paul Hamer's win on Yellow Jersey gave him the Welsh riding championship.

With Peter Greenall and Turner still on the same mark, the interest on Saturday centred at Tazewell where they opposed each other in the Ladies' race. The men's Open here went to Motor Bike Man, who has progressed successfully to this class since winning the Oakley Maiden Race for Mrs Anne Cockburn 10 weeks ago.

The saddled event of the weekend was the loss of Joey Newton's top-class hunter-chaser John Bunyan, who, when well clear of Corked after the last in the ladies' race. The men's Open here went to Motor Bike Man, who has progressed successfully to this class since winning the Oakley Maiden Race for Mrs Anne Cockburn 10 weeks ago.

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Long trip pays for Mandrake Belle

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Responsibilities cover a wide range - from secretarial, arranging meetings, helping at conferences, to circulating information to companies, MPs and many others.

The Director is frequently out at meetings, and needs someone on whom he can rely completely. Salary will be in excess of £8,000.

Please send details, including CV to:

The Director, L.S.B.A. Limited,
44 Hertford Street, London W1J 8AE
or telephone 01-499 7502 and ask for Tina Rodger

JUNIOR SECRETARY (Sales/Marketing)

£6,000 Neg.

This young company that designs/manufactures for major retail outlets at home & abroad are looking for a bright, self motivated, outgoing secretary with S.H. (80/50 wpm min) to work with the Sales/Marketing Team. The ideal candidate apart from an excellent telephone manner & has a smart appearance must have had a min. 1 years work exp. to cope with the pressure of this fun, close knit hard working team.

Ring Clare McDowell 283 5501
City Secretaries - Personnel Consultants

PUBLISHING ASSISTANT

Richmond, Surrey

Publishers of world famous grand prix motor racing books, have created a new position within their expanding organisation, for an assistant to the Executive Publisher. Good educational and secretarial qualifications required for this demanding administrative (non-editorial) post. Scope for experienced person with organising ability and initiative. Exceptionally pleasant working conditions. Salary £7,750.

Write with CV to:
Elizabeth Wapstaff
HAZZETON PUBLISHING,
3 Richmond Hill, Richmond, Surrey
TW10 6RE

Our client in the West End needs a resourceful level headed PA for their Personnel Manager. The perfect candidate is between 25-32, has worked in a personnel environment before, has experience on Wang WP and skills of 100/60.

The remuneration reflects the importance of this position.

Please telephone Suzanne Ingram on 499 9192.

NEW HORIZONS

(Rec Cons)

HEAD HUNTERS - S.W.1

We need Junior Secretary who is GCE educated and has good skills (80/60). Opportunity for promotion. Salary - £5,500, 18 years +.

also - Receptionist PABX 1. Well groomed and unflappable. Age 25 +. Salary - £6,000.

ENGINEERS S.W.1 - 2nd JOBBER

Two secretaries needed to work for project engineers with 100/60. Flexi-hours. Good perks and promotional prospects. Age 23-25. Salary up to £7,000.

SHIP OWNERS S.W.1

Urgently need Secretary to work for young M.D. Good skills (100/60) energetic and willing to much in. Age 20s. Salary £8,000.

Ring Caroline Wallinger on 01-235 8427, 4 Pont St. SW1

City 01-235 5349
West End 01-499 8070
PORTIA
Legal Secretaries

AMERICAN EMBASSY

requires a

SECRETARY

to provide secretarial assistance to an American Office working in the Press Office.

Applicants require 1 to 3 years' secretarial/general office experience preferably gained in media work. A working knowledge of US foreign policy and the US political system is required.

Typing (40 wpm), audio typing, and shorthand (80 wpm) skills are essential. Hours 9am-6pm Monday to Friday.

Salary £7,497 pa.

To apply send full details of qualifications and experience to Personnel Office, American Embassy, 24 Grosvenor St, London W1A 1AE.

TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS!

We are a fantastically busy technical recruitment consultancy in W1 and we are looking for a self-motivated and practical all-rounder with first class typing, shorthand and administrative skills. Someone who will not turn their nose up at the more boring jobs and who is capable of handling a rapidly increasing amount of responsibility calmly and efficiently. If that's you, talk right now - salary will not be a problem and your holiday arrangements will be honoured. Telephone: Andrew Neatby-Smith. 01-629 7314

FASHION PA/ADMIN

£8,400

Career minded PA required for Executive dealing with personnel & admin in this famous clothing company. Candidates should be articulate & organised with an attractive manner & presentation and be prepared to become totally involved in the multi faceted work of this busy department. Excellent shorthand and typing skills are of course essential.

Telephone: 01-734 0157 and speak to Sophie.

ALFRED MARKS Recruitment Consultants

£10,000 CHAIRMAN

A true top level PA/Secretary is required immediately for the 1000 Chairman of a major group of public companies in SW1. He has many interests including politics, and a high level of Social Commitments which need organising. Shorthand essential 35-45.

377 8600 City
439 7001 West End

Secretaries Plus

The Secretarial Consultants

QUEEN MARY COLLEGE

University of London

PERSONAL SECRETARY

Required for Director of the Centre for Commercial Law Studies within the Faculty of Law. Applicants should have had experience of working as a personal secretary, and in addition to usual secretarial skills, should have a good educational background and a sense of humour. The work is interesting and varied, requiring initiative and administrative skills. Salary is in excess of £8,000 p.a. plus 10% commission on sales. 439 7001 City. 439 7001 West End.

Secretaries Plus

The Secretarial Consultants

£9,000 Music & Literature

The Senior Partner of a firm of Solicitors in the West End has an extremely interesting client list and needs a PA who enjoys a lot of high level client contact, although normal shorthand and audio skills are requested, this is in fact not a heavy typing load. Legal experience not essential.

Age mid 20's plus.

377 8600 City

439 7001 WEST END

Secretaries Plus

The Secretarial Consultants

£9,500 PA/SEC. 28-35 (100/60)

to organise new secretaries for top level management. Excellent co. London Bridge.

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TO £8,500 PA/SEC. late 20s (100/60) for actively rich, hard working Director of a successful co. Knightsbridge. Would suit good secretaries or ex-PA's.

Phone 437 8478 or 734 3768 - 133 Oxford St

Rec Cons

Miller/McNish

BANKING £10,000

Senior Executive of prestigious AMERICAN CITY BANK seeks an exceptional ADHOC/PA.

This PA will closely work with the Managing Director of the Bank and areas of involvement include Personnel, Legal and International work. Skills must be excellent, not 100/75 although 80% is administrative. Start well presented and highly motivated secretariat.

Age 28-35. Specific 2mg int- giga, free lunches, bonus, etc.

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DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

c. £7,500

Two experienced Secretaries are required to work for the Directors of this substantial engineering group, at its Head Office just off Fleet Street. Speeds of 120/80 wpm are required, and applicants should enjoy working as part of a small team.

In addition to salary, the company provides generous benefits including 5 weeks' holiday, luncheon vouchers, season ticket loan, pension scheme and free life assurance.

Please write with details of experience and current salary to: The Personnel Director, Crane Limited, 11-12 Boulevard Street, London EC4Y 8AH.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

required by very busy international executive based in Hampshire near Winchester. The PA appointed will be expected to undertake work on their own initiative and organise and supervise the executive's private secretariat. Languages a definite asset, clean driving licence, no ties, available to travel at short notice and accustomed to working under pressure. Must have style, good dress sense and social acceptance. Very high level of confidential work involving contact with both diplomatic circles and commercial interests. An appropriate salary will be paid to the right applicant. Apply in writing for application form to: Box 2731H The Times

Sheraton Park Tower Hotel

101 Knightsbridge SW1

SECRETARIES

P.R./Food & Beverage

Two opportunities have arisen for career minded individuals with excellent shorthand secretarial skills. One position is with our Food and Beverage Manager's Office and one to assist our Director of Public Relations. Both positions will make heavy demands on your time, initiative and abilities. Language skills would be an advantage. Rewards are of course what you would expect from an international company where service and people are our business.

For further details telephone:

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erty Buyers' Guide

Overseas Property

Model I

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22 Rutland Square, Edin-
burgh. Tel. 031-229-9679.

CLARE GEORGE, W14 Last time
on the market, during the winter
of 1984/85, this superb 1000 sq. ft. house
with 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms,
large garden, £150,000. Tel. 0273
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LOCAL MEASURE 1983.
The Commissioner has approved a draft referendum Scheme for the submission of the Council of Carborough. The purpose of the Scheme is to raise the rate of the Council Tax by 1.5 pence in the pound. The Council of Carborough is invited to consider the Scheme and to decide whether or not to submit it to the voters of the Council Tax ward of Carborough. The Scheme is available for inspection at the Council Office, 1 Millbrook, London SW19 3TP. Written representations may be made to the Council of Carborough within 28 days of the date of the notice.

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